■ **LIFESTYLE / D1**

Jim Paredes takes a different sort of hike

■ **BUSINESS / B1**

Inside the Inquirer: Business Section all biz and buzz

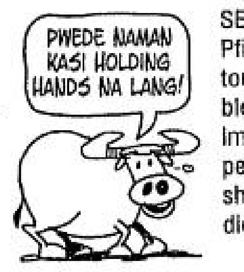
■ **WORLD / A8**

No. 3 al-Qaida leader killed in Pakistan

■ **ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1**

Laurice on departure from film council: 'I felt very humiliated'

US doctors note sagging sales of impotence drugs


PWEDE NAMAN KASI HOLDING HANDS NA LANG!

SEVEN YEARS AFTER Pfizer made Viagra a cultural touchstone and commercial blockbuster, the market for impotence medicines appears to have fallen well short of what was once predicted.

US DOCTORS/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, December 5, 2005 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 360 P18

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

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'Lion of Sea' retires

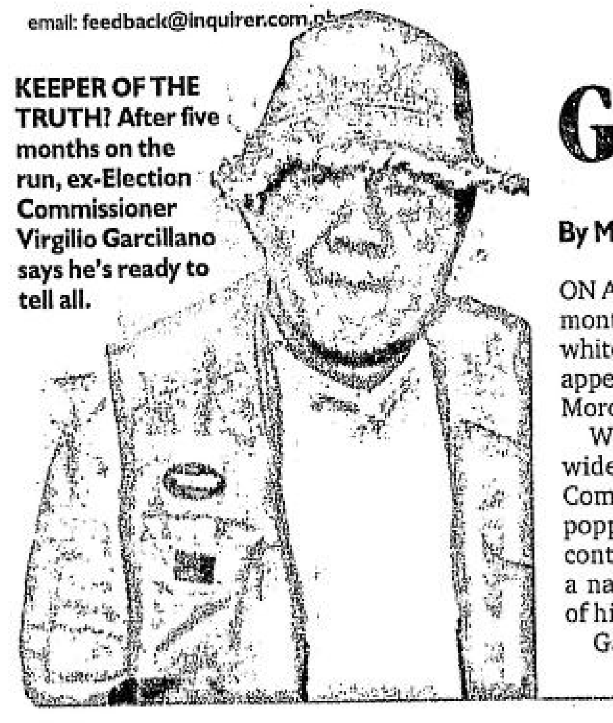
By Joan Orendain
Contributor

DE LEON

THE OLD ACTIVIST AVERSION to the military lingers. It is not easy to shake off after 20 years of Gen. Fabian Ver-types.

The situation is not helped by Maj. Gen. Carlos

LION/ A4



KEEPER OF THE TRUTH? After five months on the run, ex-Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano says he's ready to tell all.

Garci in Metro, vows to reveal phone pals

By Michael Lim Ubac

ON A MAGUINDANAO BEACH—HIS 5-month run ended yesterday when a white speedboat carrying hooded men appeared on the horizon beyond the Moro Gulf.

When the boat hit the beach, the widely maligned former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano popped up from behind the steering controls and said he was ready to face a nation he knew would be skeptical of him.

Garcillano's long journey from parts unknown ended on a deserted beach in Datu Odin Sinsuat town in Maguindanao, where he voluntarily turned himself over to the authorities.

Disembarking from the boat at 10:07 a.m. and smiling tensely, the country's most elusive man received a letter hand-carried by House sergeant-at-arms Bayani Fabic inviting him to appear on Dec. 7 at the House of Representatives' joint probe into the "Hello Garci" scandal.

His all-brown getup made him look like he was lifted right out of an Indiana Jones movie.

Garcillano said he was ready to unmask "one by one" the politicians who called or personally saw him during last year's election.

Some of them even treated him to lunch or dinner at a posh hotel in Manila, he said.

His lawyer said Garcillano would start talking today.

"I hope they will not deny because every time I would meet up with high officials, I had somebody with me," Garcillano said.

Many of the wiretapped calls—numbering 13 to 15, by some accounts—supposedly came from President Macapagal-Arroyo, sparking an explosive political crisis that outraged the nation, inspired coup plots and nearly toppled her from office.

"I will face public opinion and risk vilification by people who have done nothing except to destroy my reputation," Garcillano said.

He vowed to "prove to all that I have truly been a dedicated public official."

One opposition senator, on hearing

GARCI/ A22

SEAG champion at last

RP team bags 113 golds and counting

By Roy Luarca

THERE'S NO DENYING THE Philippines the overall title this time.

Pounding the opposition on various fronts, Team Philippines yesterday clinched its first ever overall championship of the Southeast Asian Games with a Day 8 deluge of 23 golds, pulling away from the opposition and rendering today's closing events no bearing.

Posting its best ever haul of 113 golds, 76 silvers and 91 bronzes, the Philippines moved beyond the reach of Thailand which had a 86-79-116 tally and Vietnam with a 66-65-85 output.

The Filipinos thus buried the harrowing memory of the 1991 Manila SEAG, where the general championship race went down to the last event, the marathon, with the Indonesians prevailing by a solitary gold, 92-91, after topping the women's event.

Finally, after 46 years of fruitless campaigns, the Filipinos can claim to be the region's best in the biennial meet involving 11 nations, including war-ravaged Timor Leste.

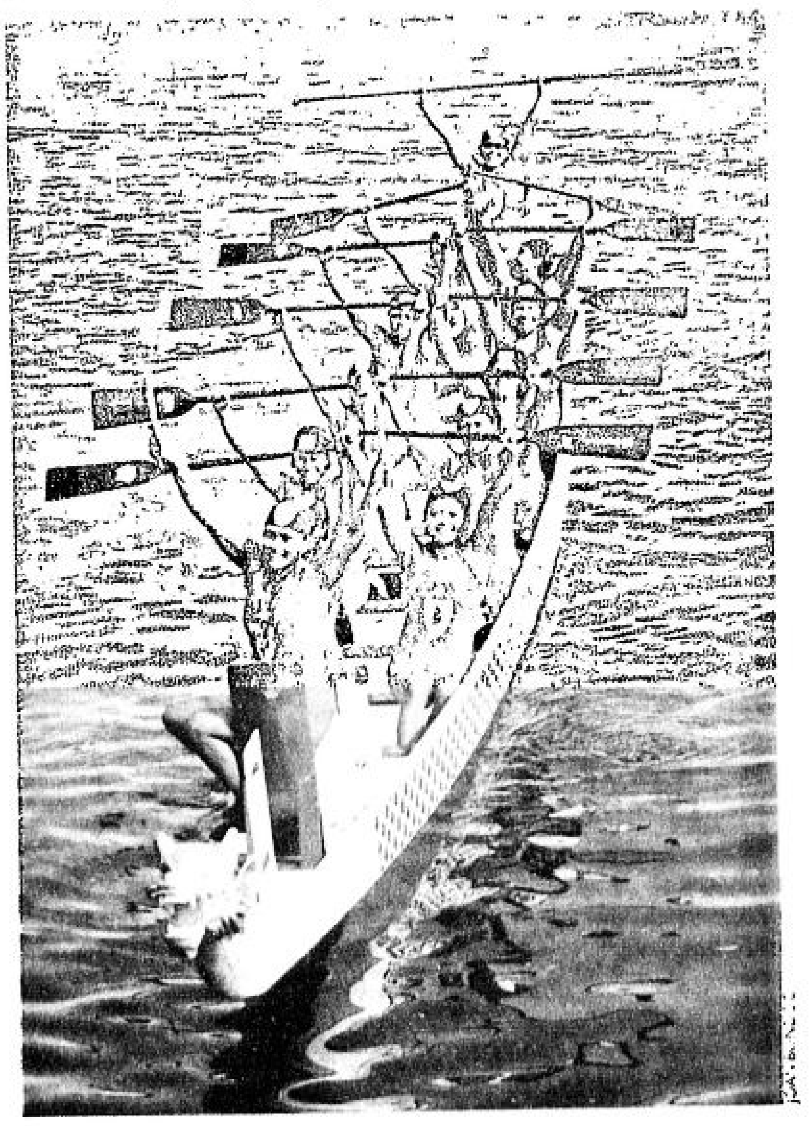
The traditional boat race team and the muay thai bets provided the biggest push to the country's title drive yesterday when they wrested three golds each.

The Filipino rowers emerged victorious in the men's and women's 500m 10-a-side and the men's 500m 20-a-side while muay thai

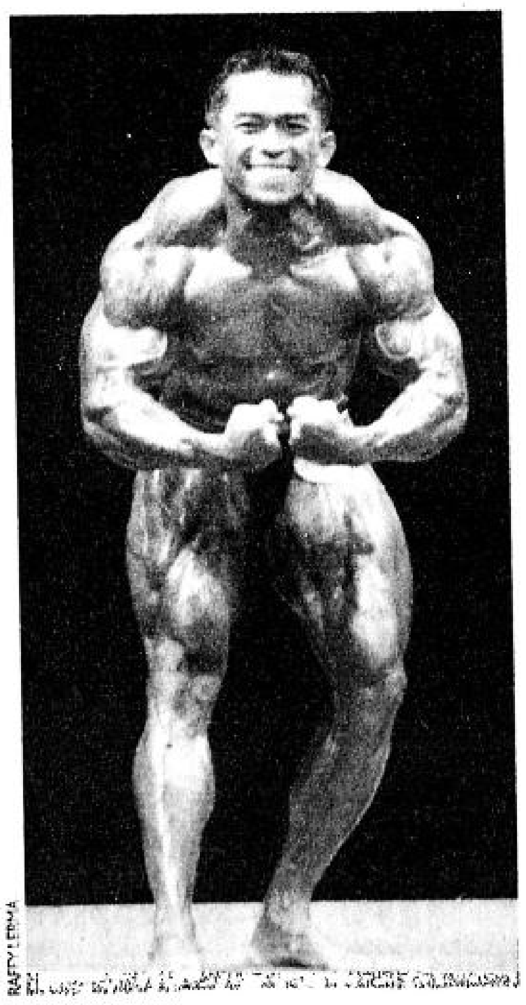
SEAG CHAMPION/ A22

REVIVING OLD GLORY. The Philippine team shows how it feels to be baseball champions in the SEA Games competitions. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

ROWING FOR GOLD. Jubilation is writ on their faces after the RP women's rowing team (below) wins in the traditional boat race.



Games sked today in Sports, Page A30



RAFFY LERMA

MUSCLE MAN Michael Borenaga gets a perfect score of 10 in winning the bantamweight (65 kg) title in bodybuilding.

Bonds of solidarity, friendship matter most, says GMA

By Christine O. Avendaño

JUST LIKE IN THE "HELLO GARCI" CONTROVERSY, President Macapagal-Arroyo would rather put closure to allegations of cheating made by Thailand in the Southeast Asian Games.

"As this historic biennial event nears its end, we join our Southeast Asian neighbors in leaving a mark of renewed cooperation and unity in the region to enable us to face challenges of world competition in terms of trade, investments and tourism, and to forge enduring regional security," the President said in a statement yesterday.

"More than the medals proudly reaped in the Games, what matters is how this event would further seal the bonds that envelope our region into a higher level of solidarity and friendship for the common good along our great SEA Games theme 'One Asean, One Heritage,'" she said.

Last week, the SEA Games was engulfed in controversy after Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra questioned the fairness

BONDS/ A22

Davide's legacy of activism: Break or continuity

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE Hilario Davide Jr. on Dec. 20 brings down the curtain on an unprecedented era of judicial activism by the Supreme Court compelled by turbulent political conflict to intervene to avert the plunge of the country into chaos in the wake of the ouster of President Joseph Estrada by "people power" in 2001.

Davide has presided over the court for seven years, highlighted by the first impeachment trial of a Philippine president, which he chaired with almost impeccable impartiality. And yet, the abortion of the trial (by the suppressed envelope of evidence) drew the court into a highly contentious issue involving the legitimacy of the accession to the presidency by Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The selection of the next Chief Justice is taking place against the background of the legacy of the Davide Court which he himself defined as "an activist court." Former Senate President Jovito Salonga has a

DAVIDE'S/ A21

MILF, gov't forces rescue 2 kidnap victims

By Luige A. del Puerto

IN A RARE JOINT OPERATION, Moro guerrillas and government forces rescued two kidnapped teachers yesterday in Piagapo town, Lanao del Sur.

"The *mujahideen* would surely get us," the bandits who snatched couple Felipe and Helen Lacunias were heard saying when they learned that hundreds of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) fighters had cornered them, according to Marine Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino.

Before daybreak, the bandits, who had demanded an unspecified ransom, abandoned the couple in a hut in Barangay Pantar. Civilians guided the couple to the MILF under Commander Bravo, who then turned them over to the Marines.

"They (couple) were OK. They were not wounded. Not a single shot was fired," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu told the INQUIRER on the phone.

The MILF has been waging a bloody war for Moro self-rule in Mindanao for decades. It has been holding Malaysian-brokered peace talks with the government and forged a truce

MILF/ A5

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will have cloudy skies with rainshowers becoming widespread over the Eastern sections. Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/12/05/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FrontPage

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Despite turmoil, economic growth seen

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo and the opposition continues to simmer but the economy is starting to show signs of growth contrary to fears it would be paralyzed by politics.

While gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the three months to September was a disappointing 4.1 percent, economists expect fourth quarter growth to come in at almost 5 percent.

The huge influx of remittances from the eight million Filipinos working abroad has lifted the economy and the stabilization of oil prices after recent record highs would also boost growth, analysts said.

"We feel the economy is performing better than expected even considering the type of difficulties we are experiencing," said Melito Salazar, president of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines.

He expects GDP growth to be "a little bit lower" than 5 percent—a good showing "given the difficulties we have been through."

"After expanding 4.6 percent in the first three quarters, the economy should be able to post an above-5 percent performance in the fourth quarter, primarily due to the strong influx of remittances," said economist Euben Paracuelles of DBS Bank in Singapore.

Christmas holidays

Overseas remittances usually surge in the fourth quarter as Filipinos send money home for the Christmas holidays and this might enable the economy to end 2005 with 4.8 percent growth, Paracuelles said.

"The weaker-than-forecast third quarter growth (of 4.1 percent) places the full-year real GDP outcome on track to reach 4.6 percent," said JP Morgan economist Sin Beng Ong in a research paper.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos conceded that the latest figures made it unlikely the Philippines would hit its 5.3-percent growth target for 2005 but he was still confident it could approach that figure.

He blamed the slowdown in the third quarter on the poor performance in agriculture, the record oil prices and the political turmoil stemming from the opposition's efforts to impeach Ms Arroyo on charges she cheated to win the 2004 elections.

"The political uncertainty brought about by the impeachment case and the volatility of oil prices weighed on the country," Santos said.

Political uncertainty

Since June, the country's attention has been riveted on accusations that Ms Arroyo cheated her way to victory.

The President has denied the charges and her allies in Congress succeeded in quashing an impeachment motion in September but almost all functions of the government had bogged down in the partisan struggle.

The President said the growth so far showed she has successfully insulated the economy from the political environment but her approval rating still hovered at record lows and many Filipinos were still complaining of hard times.

"The fact is, that up to today, there are questions being raised on the ability of government to get its act together (over) legislative issues that are still unacted upon," Salazar said.

But business people have learned to "ignore the political situation and continue with their own business," he said.

Ms Arroyo can boast of some victories such as the implementation on Nov. 1 of the long-delayed expanded value-added tax (VAT), the cornerstone of the government's efforts to boost revenues and avoid a fiscal crisis.

This will hopefully lessen the burden from the budgetary deficit, leading possibly to an upgrade in the country's credit ratings and allowing the government to spend more on infrastructure instead of debt servicing.

Penchant for spending

Santos was confident the economy would rebound in the fourth quarter based on recent positive indicators such as tourist arrivals, power consumption, rising sales of motor vehicles and appliances, and improving trade data as well as the recent strong performance of the stock market.

Stephen Huang, an economist at the University of Asia and the Pacific, agreed, saying that "given our penchant for spending in the Christmas season and renewed confidence in the (lower) oil prices, there is still room over some significant increase" in growth.

For next year, Santos said the improvement in the economies of Japan and the United States, the two main trading partners of the Philippines, would also lift the economy.

While growth in 2006 will likely be on the same level as 2005, analysts hope the country will finally be able to focus its attention on the economy.

"The political scenario has already been put in the background. The focus will now be on the economic reforms, fiscal reforms," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities Inc. *AFP*

Palace: GMA bent on Cha-cha

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY INsisted President Macapagal-Arroyo was determined to have the 1987 Constitution amended, contrary to claims by some senators that she only agreed to it in July when her administration was on the verge of collapse after key members of her Cabinet quit and sought her own resignation.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye reminded the senators that Ms Arroyo was the only presidential candidate in 2004 to include Charter change as part of her campaign platform.

"Memory appears to be failing those who are now claiming that the proposed shift is only being done for political expediency," Bunye said in his weekly "The View From the Palace" column.

Bunye, however, declined to comment on the senators' claims that Ms Arroyo would only support Charter change if she remained President until the end of her term in 2010 and with no diminution of her powers.

In July, when she faced a crisis of legitimacy and was in danger of being toppled, President Arroyo was given crucial support by former President Fidel Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia, who offered the Charter change compromise as a "graceful exit."

In his column, Bunye renewed the Palace call for Congress to support the Charter change initiative, which is being kept alive by a 49-member consultative commission gathering Charter change proposals for submission to lawmakers at the end of the month.

"We call upon our leaders to seize the moment and waste no time to address the weaknesses of a poisoned political system," Bunye said.

He said political reforms were important components of the road map of the Arroyo administration.

"Charter change now is a great opportunity to ensure a better future," he said.

The Palace, he also said, was glad the Senate was now more open to Charter change even through the "expeditious method" of constituent assembly.

He was referring to Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel's earlier statement that he was now amenable to have the Constitution amended through a constituent assembly instead of a constitutional commission.

But Pimentel yesterday cautioned administration lawmakers against holding a people's initiative to amend the Constitution, saying this might not be legally viable.

The people's initiative was proposed by De Venecia as an option in the event the Senate voted down the House resolution seeking to turn both chambers into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

Pimentel advised De Venecia to check whether there was an "appropriate" law that governs the holding of such an initiative before considering it as a "fallback position" if everything else failed.

With TJ Burgonio

'STOP THE KILLINGS' JOAN BONDOC

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano (left) and other members of the militant workers' group remember 13 of their colleagues killed this year in violent circumstances, at rites at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City yesterday. The affair was held amid the release of a report scoring the Arroyo administration for its dismal human rights record. *(See story on Page A7)*

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New leader of bishops hoping for good press

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) hopes he doesn't get the same bad press that his predecessor supposedly did.

On his first day on the job, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo sent a text message to Malolos Bishop Jose Oliveros asking him for support.

"He texted me on the very first day he assumed office precisely about his predecessor," Oliveros said yesterday during an interview over Church-run Radio Veritas.

"He (Lagdameo) said he was hoping he would get the people's support and not criticisms like those hurled against Archbishop (Fernando) Capalla," he said in Filipino.

Oliveros wished his former professor in the seminary "luck in your relationship with the press."

Lagdameo officially replaced Capalla as CBCP president on Dec. 1 amid expectations of a Church leadership less ambivalent when it came to sociopolitical issues.

Throughout Capalla's two-year term, he had been criticized for allegedly failing to make the CBCP more relevant, especially in the face of political and economic turmoil.

Oliveros scored the media, particularly the INQUIRER, for its alleged baseless attacks on Capalla's leadership of the CBCP, as well as some other leaders of the Roman Catholic hierarchy.

"Their facts are not accurate and their reporting is not balanced," Oliveros complained.

"A reporter is not true to his calling if instead of heralding the truth, he becomes the bringer of the half-truth or untruth," he said.

Aside from making sweeping statements about the media, Oliveros didn't clarify specific issues, like the INQUIRER report on a number of bishops who received hefty cash donations from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Among them were Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, San Fernando (Pampanga) Archbishop Paciano Aniceto and Capalla.

One priest sympathetic to the media said many bishops were fuming over this report.

They were all the more angered by INQUIRER columnist Conrado de Quiros' criticism of Capalla and another report that President Macapagal-Arroyo had donated P1 million in an alleged effort to endear herself to Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales.

Rosales has consciously kept himself away from politics.

Late last week, a text message circulated among bishops calling for a boycott of the INQUIRER.

"I stopped my subscription of the INQUIRER," Oliveros said yesterday.

Pinoy is Rome parish priest

THE VATICAN HAS TAPPED A FILIPINO TO help shepherd its flock in Rome.

Fr. Jesus Marquiña Maraño is the first Filipino—and Asian—to be named a parish priest in the Diocese of Rome.

As the new head of Nostra Signora Di Fatima (Our Lady of Fatima parish), the 40-year-old Bicolano will work directly under Pope Benedict XVI, who is also the Bishop of Rome.

Maraño was officially installed on Nov. 6 before a crowd of some 1,500, including well-wishers from neighboring parishes.

The warm welcome reminded the priest of the great challenge ahead, he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview from Rome.

"The appointment is both a great privilege and a great responsibility," Maraño said.

Judging from his accent, he seemed more comfortable with Italian than the French, Spanish, English and Filipino languages he also speaks.

Originally from Daraga, Albay, Maraño first went to Rome as a student in 1985. He endeared himself to the Italian community and vice-versa, especially after he was ordained there in 1992.

Maraño, who spent 13 years in the Rome parish prior to his appointment, faces the tough task of injecting life back into a flock seemingly lost in a steady stream of "relativism."

It's a takeoff from remarks made by Pope Benedict during his installation as Christendom's 265th pope in April.

Maraño said he observed that many of his parishioners were practicing what he called "homemade" Christianity.

"They expect God to do things based on what they like. They do things without regard for the universal truth," he said.

Maraño said the best way to deal with this attitude was for priests to be more open to the people.

He said he plans to show up at his parishioners' doorsteps to prove to them that the Church doesn't reinvigorate the faith from behind church doors. *Christian V. Esguerra*

NDF to GMA: War or peace?

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—IT'S EITHER ALL-out war or peace talks.

The communist-led National Democratic Front said these were the only options left for the Arroyo administration in the wake of the intensified attacks being waged by New People's Army rebels in various parts of the country.

Luis Jalandoni, chair of the NDF peace panel, however, expects the government to continue with its hard-line militarist solution to insurgency and refuse to comply with its obligations under previous peace agreements and reject proposals to resume formal peace talks.

Jalandoni told the INQUIRER in response to an e-mailed query that it was also possible that, finding itself in an increasingly desperate and isolated position, the Arroyo administration would decide to start complying with its obligations and move toward resuming the formal talks.

Jalandoni stressed the revolutionary movement "is prepared for either way the Arroyo regime will decide."

From the People's War Bulletin index posted on the CPP-NPA website, the communist guerrillas claimed to have staged, from Sept. 20 to Nov. 21, a total of 68 ambuscades, tactical offensives and harassment of government forces in different parts of the country, killing many soldiers and carting away high-powered weapons and ammunition.

Jalandoni admitted the central committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines, in a directive in September, had ordered the NPA rebels to intensify nationwide tactical offensives against military, police and paramilitary forces.

He said the intensified NPA attacks were aimed "to isolate the Arroyo regime further and to embarrass the military and police with their losses."

Jalandoni predicted the continuous attacks by communist guerrillas would gradually advance the revolution from its present strategic defensive to a strategic stalemate stage and finally to a strategic offensive stage.

"That is the way for the people to gain political power. The offensives are now being stepped up because the oppressive and exploitative ruling system is in severe crisis, is very weak and is ripe for the offensives," Jalandoni said.

The NDF, the political arm of the CPP, suspended the Norwegian-brokered talks with the government last year, saying the government had done little to remove it from terror blacklists.

Indons' cutting of JI ties said to be a ploy

A RANKING INTELLIGENCE OFficial said yesterday reports that two top Jemaah Islamiyah operatives had cut their ties to the Indonesian-based terror group could just be a ploy to "soften" the efforts by both the Indonesian and Philippine governments to go after them.

"What we see is that they are trying to ease pressure on Dulmatin and Umar Patek, who are on the run," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Dulmatin, a bomb expert, and Patek are suspects in the 2002 Bali, Indonesia, resort bombings that killed more than 200 people. They are also believed to be behind several bombings in Mindanao. The United States placed a total $11-million bounty on their heads.

"They're only saying that these two have cut ties to cushion the impact or to soften our efforts to get them," said the official who is familiar with the workings of the JI.

US-trained Filipino soldiers are tracking Dulmatin and Patek in central Mindanao although reports indicated they had slipped out of the area.

Captured Indonesian militant Abdullah Sunata had told Indonesian authorities that Dulmatin and Patek confided to him two years ago that they had cut their ties with JI because of the intense manhunt for them by Indonesian authorities for their participation in the Bali blasts, The Associated Press reported.

They fled separately to Mindanao early that year, the AP said, quoting a report on Sunata's interrogation.

Luige A. del Puerto

COA-Bicol probes fund recipients

LEGAZPI CITY—THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT in Bicol is investigating at least five of the 14 reported recipients of the controversial P728-million fertilizer fund that allegedly was used to bankroll President Macapagal-Arroyo's election campaign last year.

COA chief legal officer Francisco Velasco said the agency had begun investigating the alleged anomaly in Bicol in October.

Velasco said initial reports from COA field auditors identified at least five recipients of the fund in the region. The money was supposed to go toward the purchase of fertilizer and other farm inputs under President Arroyo's Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) program but allegedly ended up in the pockets of politicians allied with her as well as with her election campaign.

Velasco, however, declined to reveal the names of the five recipients so as not to jeopardize the COA investigation.

"But rest assured we're doing all the paper and people trailing to ferret out the truth at the soonest possible time, especially now that they're all identified," he said.

The INQUIRER was able to obtain a copy of the list of proponents and recipients of the fund in Southern Luzon from the Office of the Senate President.

In the Bicol region alone, there were 14 fund recipients—seven congressmen, six governors and one mayor.

The congressmen on the list included Carlos Imperial (2nd dist., Albay), Joey Salceda (3rd dist., Albay), Renato Unico Jr. (lone dist., Camarines Norte), Felix Alfelor (4th dist., Camarines Sur), Jose Solis (2nd dist., Sorsogon), Emilio Espinosa (2nd dist., Masbate) and the late Fausto Seachon (3rd dist., Masbate).

The governors listed were Jesus Typoco Jr. of Camarines Norte, Leandro Verceles Jr. of Catanduanes, Antonio Kho of Masbate, Raul Lee of Sorsogon, former Gov. Al Francis Bichara of Albay and former Gov. Luis Villafuerte of Camarines Sur.

Emiliana Kare of Malinao, Albay, was the only mayor on the list. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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2. NPC now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for GOODS listed below. Delivery of the GOODS is required by the date indicated in the bid documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from NPC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm from Monday to Friday. Issuance of Bidding Documents shall start on December 5, 2005 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am Monday to Friday. No Bid Documents shall be issued on the date of bidding.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount listed below. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. NPC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on dates listed below at the designated NPC function rooms.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address as listed in the Bid Documents on or before the dates stated below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form as stated in the Bid Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on the dates specified hereunder at the designated NPC function rooms. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. ITEMS FOR BID

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	PR No./Inquiry No.	ABC (In Pesos)	Bid Docs Price
I	January 4, 2006 10:00 AM Kañao Room	Hauling Services: Masbate Pier to Sibuyan, Concepcion, Banton, Corcuera, San Jose & Ticao DPP	PB060104-MMMT3994 HO-LOD-05-190	4,965,080.00	P 1,100.00
II		Hauling Services: Manila Pier to Lubang DPP	PB060104-MMMT3995 HO-LOD-05-0191	2,813,500.00	P 1,100.00
III		Hauling Services: Powerzone Depot, Palnab, Virac Catanduanes to Marinawa, Viga DPP & PB110	PB060104-MMMT3996 HO-LOD-05-0192	12,029,000.00	P 3,300.00
IV	January 4, 2006 2:00 PM Kañao Room	Computer Leasing (76 units of Notebook Computer) for ISTD, NPC-OBC, Diliman, Q.C.	IST-2005-010	2,340,000.00	P 1,100.00
V		One (1) year Operation & Maintenance (O/M) of NPC Tugboat No. 1 to include labor & materials	TVO-OVO-05-048	6,364,367.04	P 2,200.00

NOTE: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
Schedule I-V	December 20, 2005	2:00 PM	Old Peñafrancia Room

10. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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(PDI - Dec. 5 & 12, 2005)

'Lion of Sea' retires

From page A1

Garcia's conviction on charges of undeclared wealth and allegations of corruption against other generals, or by generals who lie about their age so they could stay in the service longer.

"How can he be a bad golfer, when he's darker than his desk?" joked a "roaster" at a testimonial dinner on Friday for Vice Adm. Ernesto H. de Leon, flag officer in command (FOIC) of the Philippine Navy.

Bad golfer though he may be, he's as good a man as they get in the officer corps, colleagues say. So good, they add, that he's retiring earlier than he should, to ensure he leaves the Navy's command "in good hands" by deepening the bench of candidates for his successor, from three to five.

Former Philippine Navy FOIC Vice Adm. Eduardo Ma. Santos says De Leon's gesture of leaving early to give President Macapagal-Arroyo a wider choice "is laudable."

"It is the first time it has happened in Philippine Navy history," Santos says.

De Leon is 55, a year shy of the mandatory retirement age.

His men fear him, but look at him like a hero. One of them, Capt. Alexander Pama, cribbed from a French writer to define a hero: "One who does something when others don't."

Two Marine officers currently assigned to war-torn areas in Mindanao agreed, citing instances when De Leon moved with alacrity while muttering, "Damn the torpedoes."

Sea Hawk

Daunting is the Navy's task to protect the longest shoreline in the world. The gravity of the situation was brought home in 2000 and 2001 when kidnap groups struck at Malaysia's Sipadan Resort and Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan, seizing foreigners and Filipinos as hostages.

The Navy harked back to lessons learned from 1995, when De Leon constituted and commanded Task Group Sea Hawk. Their mission: To interdict international pirates hijacking cargo vessels between the Scarborough Shoal off Zambales and the Ilocos coast.

Six ships, an aircraft and two SEAL teams kept the pirates away. They have not returned, and kidnappers have not hit any more resorts, since Naval Task Group Stringray, an offshoot of Sea Hawk, was formed in 2002.

Rescuing women and children

The "*bahala na*" equivalent of "damn the torpedoes" was demonstrated when Pama, cruising the Mindanao Sea in the dead of night as Stringray commander, came upon a wooden tub packed with Filipino Muslim refugees—170 in a 30-capacity boat fleeing Sabah.

The Malaysians had been throwing undocumented men, women and children in jail.

Then Commodore De Leon, as chief of Naval Forces South, swung into action. Though each round-trip voyage from Zamboanga to Sandakan cost a million pesos in fuel, which the Navy could ill afford, off ships picked them up and ferried them home.

Securing the Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power Project, is particularly problematic. Situated west of El Nido in Palawan, its gas pipelines extend 504 km all the way to Batangas.

Task Force Malampaya includes the Army and the Air Force, and is commanded by the Navy. Malampaya is one of the largest gas platforms in the world.

The killing of Abu Sabaya, the swaggering spokesperson of the Abu Sayyaf group, is a star in De Leon's crown. It took months of planning, intelligence work and coordination before the assault at sea was effected.

The story of "The Lion of the Sea," as his men like to refer to De Leon, is an in spite-of-adversity biography. His wealthy grandfather owned blocks of real estate in the Malate-Cortabitarte area. In the days when foolish men gambled away tracts of land, old Mr. De Leon (actor Christopher and actress Pinky are relatives) lost everything.

Penury, street fights in Pasay, where the De Leons moved when the hard times came, off-hours as a shoeshine boy and fruit vendor, were how the young boy's days ran.

His mother was a seamstress, and when a Malate Catholic School tuition installment had to be paid and a customer's dress rushed, she would tell him to help her hem its skirts.

PMA days

Some days, he stayed in school after hours to help bind books and earn a few pesos.

At the Philippine Military Academy, he and former AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu were classmates, roommates and close friends. Present AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga was also a classmate.

No longer a drinking man, he sips Coke with his men in their drinking sessions, to listen to their troubles and have a few laughs. "It gives me a better understanding of human nature," he says.

Small wonder one of the "roasters" broke away from the microphone, holding back his tears.

On Saturday, De Leon boarded the BRP Pangasinan, the patrol gunship he last commanded, sailed alongside several Navy ships lined up on the bay so they could render their chief a final salute.

Then, he sailed on to Sangley Point, where a parade by Marines and sailors awaited him.

In his younger days, he chose to go to France, at the Ecole de Guerre in Paris, for further schooling, instead of to the United States.

"You can't speak French," his superiors discouraged him. "I'll learn," he said.

He taped all the lectures, translated everything every evening, and learned the language in three months. His two French awards, both from President Jacques Chirac, include the French Legion of Honor.

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US doctors note . . .

From page A1

Heavy advertising to consumers, totaling more than $400 million in 2004, has made Viagra and its newer competitors, Cialis and Levitra, among the best-known drug brands. Their combined global sales reached about $2.5 billion last year.

But the number of new prescriptions for the drugs has fallen steadily this year. Doctors wrote about 10 percent fewer new prescriptions in October than they did in October of 2004.

Some of the decline is a result of reports, disputed by some specialists, that linked the drugs to a rare form of blindness, according to urologists who specialize in treating impotence.

But these doctors say a more fundamental factor is also hurting sales: Many impotent men have chosen not to take the drugs, even though they work about 70 percent of the time and have relatively few side effects.

In some cases, older men do not use the drugs because they have grown used to sexless relationships, because their spouses are physically unable to have sex, or because they are no longer interested in intercourse.

So-called recreational use of the drugs by younger men also seems to have peaked, urologists say. For most men under 40, the drugs make only a marginal difference in the quality of intercourse, says Dr. Michael A. Perelman, a sexual medicine specialist in Manhattan.

As many as half of men over 40 have at least mild or occasional impotence, but Pfizer estimates that only about 15 percent of those men get prescriptions for Viagra, Cialis or Levitra in a given year.

Ad campaigns

In the hopes of increasing that figure, Pfizer is about to begin two major new ad campaigns—one for Viagra and a more general one about erectile dysfunction, the company's term for impotence.

Viagra generated enormous interest before Pfizer began selling it in May 1998. Worldwide sales topped $1 billion in 1999, and some Wall Street analysts predicted that Viagra sales could reach $4.5 billion by 2004. Those estimates now appear to have been too high.

In the United States, the biggest market for the drugs, doctors prescribe impotence drugs about 17 million times a year, to fewer than 5 million men.

Typically, new drugs expand overall sales for a class of medicines, especially if they are heavily advertised. But prescriptions for impotence drugs increased only about 10 percent in 2004, despite the addition of Cialis and Levitra.

This year, Pfizer sharply cut back on ads for Viagra, after complaints from the Food and Drug Administration that the ads improperly failed to disclose the drug's side effects.

New prescriptions for the drug plunged almost 20 percent in October compared to the same month a year ago. Cialis prescriptions are growing, but not enough to make up the difference, while Levitra's market share remains tiny. *The New York Time News Service*

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the caption of a photo on Page A8 misstated the name of the chair of the Philippine Sports Commission. The PSC chair (center) is Butch Ramirez—not Jimenez.

***

IN THE DEC. 3 issue, a headline in the Metro section on Page A24—"Rebels' case to family court"—should have read—"Rebellion case to family court."

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

MILF, gov't forces ...

From page A1

with the military two years ago, considerably easing years of deadly clashes.

The MILF and the government had agreed to help each other in the pursuit of criminals in areas where the MILF exerts strong influence.

Abducted in Marawi

The couple, who both teach at the Lanao National College of Arts and Trade in Marawi City, were abducted by two armed men as they left the campus on Friday afternoon. They were brought to Piagapo town.

Word of the abduction flew fast as soldiers under Dolorfino began pursuing the bandits.

The MILF in the area learned of the abduction and mobilized some 1,000 men to find the bandits, according to Kabalu.

The military said two MILF bases were involved in one of the biggest anticrime operations of the rebel group this year.

Blocking force

By nightfall, some 1,000 rebels had the bandits cornered as Marines and policemen acted as blocking forces in town, MILF and government officials said.

"The mayor of the town told us the bandits had sent surrender feelers. But we did not push through with the negotiation because it was nighttime already," Dolorfino said on the phone.

Quoting Felipe Lacunias, the Marine official said the bandits could monitor radio dispatchers among MILF men who were pursuing them.

"They knew they were cornered. Knowing that, they lost hope and panicked. They said, '*Patay tayo sa mga mujahideen nito* (The mujahideen would surely get us),'" Dolorfino said.

Taking advantage of the cover of darkness, the bandits escaped and left the couple unharmed.

Sight to behold

The turnover of the couple on a highway in Piagapo was a "sight to behold," Dolorfino said. "There were MILF rebels, government soldiers and policemen, and we were not fighting," he said.

"This shows our sincere commitment to help the government in going after criminals," Kabalu said.

Coordination between the police and military, on one hand, and the MILF, on the other, was done through the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group. The body was set up to pool the resources of the government and the rebel group not only in combating criminality but also in eliminating misencounters.

The Lacuniases were later brought to the International Monitoring Team office in Iligan City where they were reunited with their relatives.

With a report from AP

GMA appoints Mayuga Navy chief

By Luige A. del Puerto

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has appointed Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga the new chief of the Philippine Navy, a Navy spokesperson said yesterday.

"The President signed (his appointment papers) this afternoon," Capt. Geronimo Malabanan told the INQUIRER. "The turnover shall be at 2 p.m. Monday at the Navy headquarters."

Previously, Mayuga was Inspector General of the Armed Forces. He is a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1973.

"It's a pleasant surprise," Mayuga said. "I'll try to restore the basic capability of the Navy to conduct maritime security operations."

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Christmas card sells for ₱840,000

LONDON—A 162-YEAR-OLD CHRISTMAS card, one of the first commercial cards produced for the season, sold at auction in England on Saturday for 8,800 pounds (US$16,000; 13,000 euros; P840,000).

The hand-colored card, which shows a family celebrating around a table, is one of about 10 surviving from an original batch of 1,000 printed in 1843, auctioneers Hendry Aldridge & Son said.

The cards were commissioned by Londoner Sir Henry Cole, who is generally recognized as the inventor of the commercial Christmas card.

The card was bought at the auction at Devizes in southern England by Jakki Brown, editor and co-owner of "Progressive Greetings" magazine and general secretary of the Greeting Card Association.

Auctioneer Aldridge said he was "pleased with the price and that the card is staying in this country within the greetings card industry."

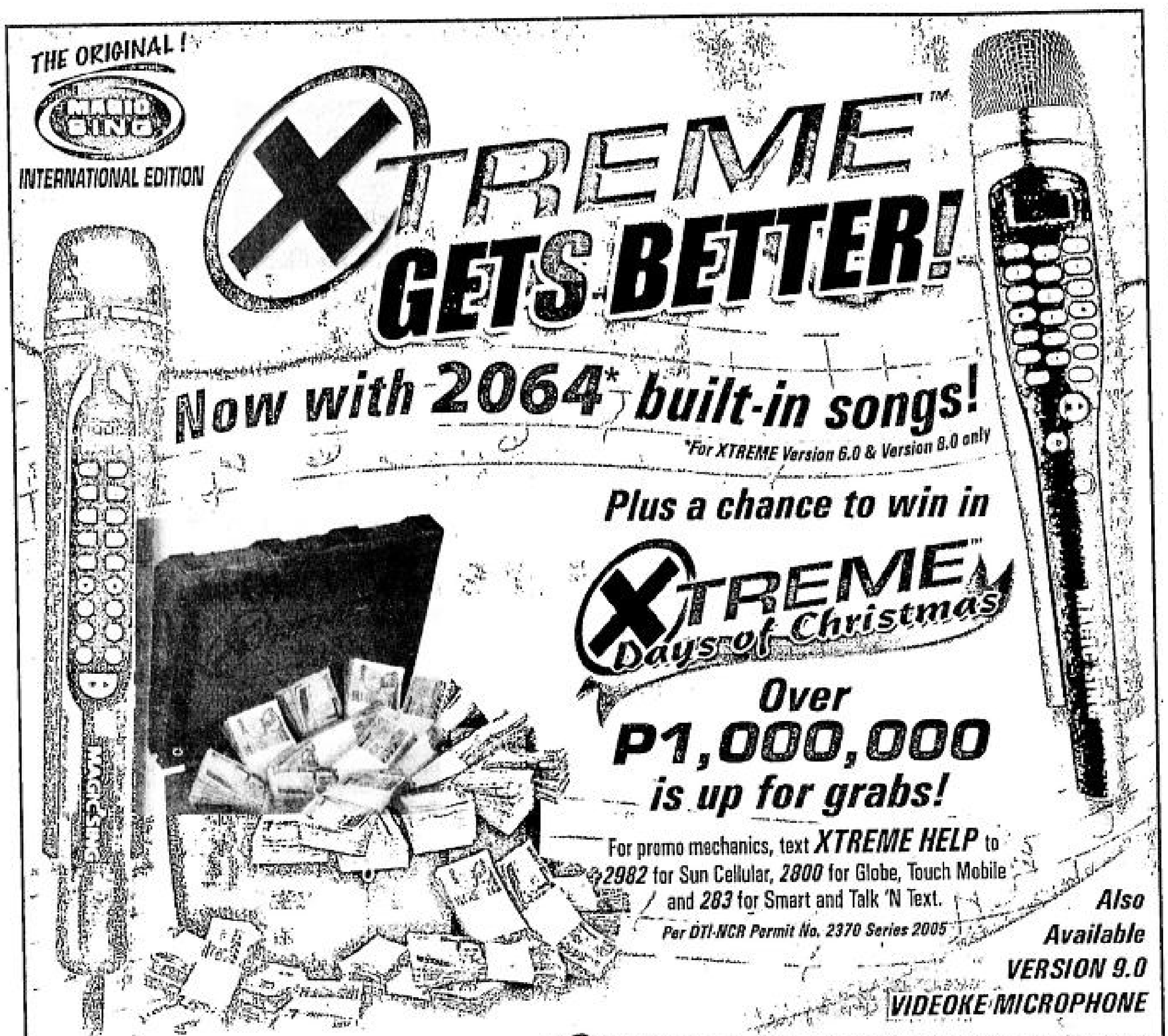
The card was originally sent to a Miss Mary Tripsack, a close friend of the poet Elizabeth Barrett, wife of poet Robert Browning.

"We don't know who sent it to Miss Tripsack. We can only assume that they must have been of means as cards were a novelty at the time," said Aldridge.

John Calcott Horsley, a British painter, designed the card for Cole, who was the first director of London's Victoria and Albert Museum.

Cole printed 1,000 of the cards on a lithograph stone before having them hand-colored. They were sold from a shop in Old Bond Street, central London, for one shilling each (5 pence; 7 euro cents; 8 US cents; P4.32).

AP, AFP



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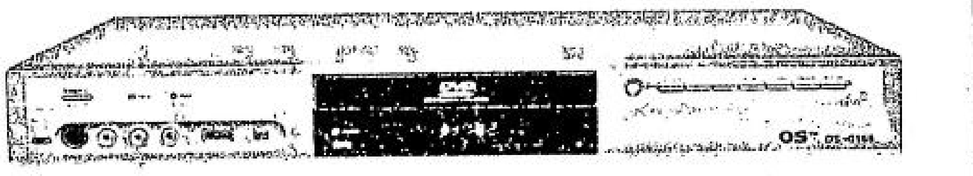

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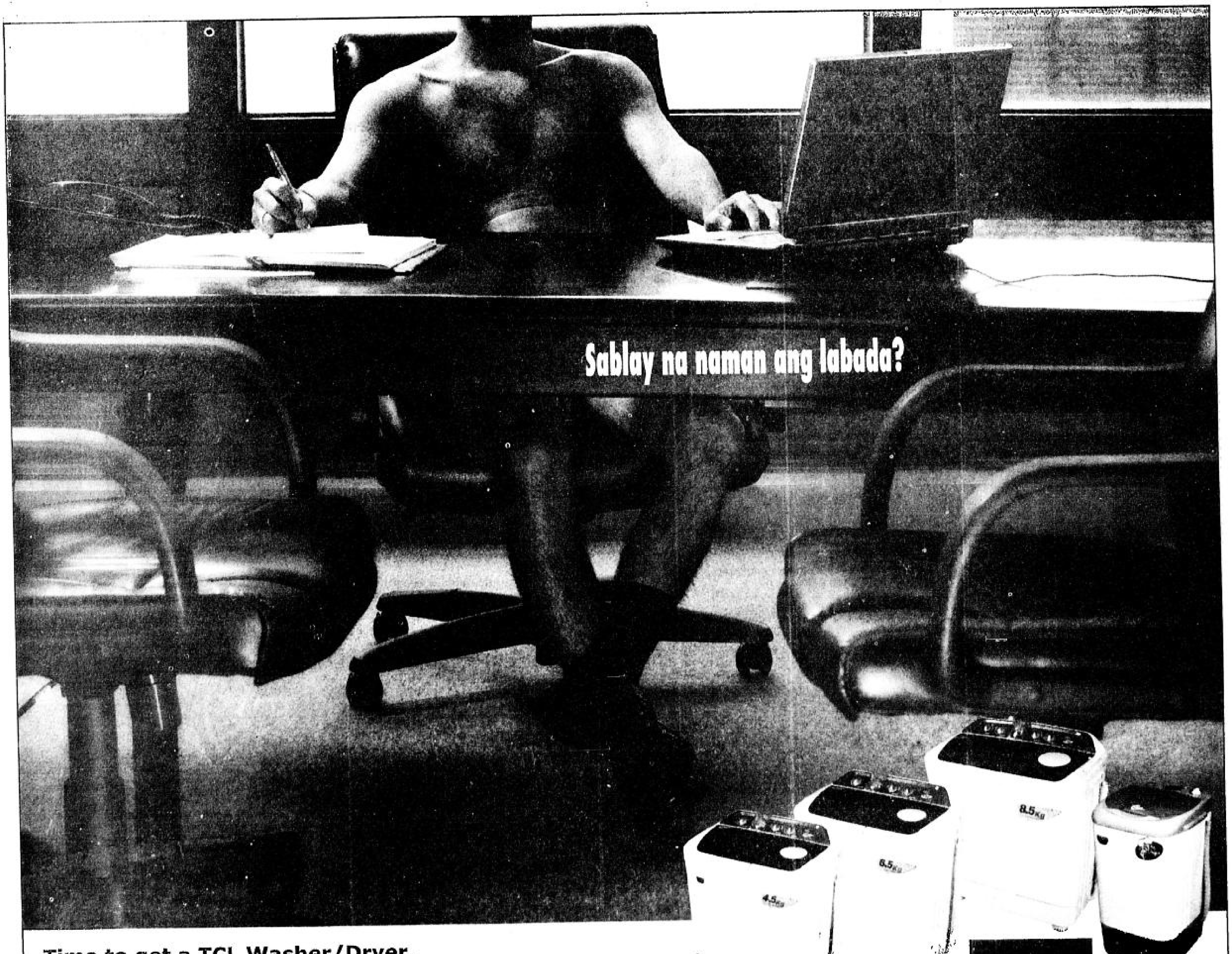
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RP rights record poor –watchdog

By DJ Yap

THE COUNTRY'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD remained dismal for the better part of the year, a group monitoring violations said.

Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) said at a conference Friday that the first three quarters of 2005 were marked by increased cases of summary killings, torture, illegal arrest and arbitrary detention of people contrary to their rights.

With the worldwide celebration of International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10, TFDP came out with a situationer on the state of human rights in the Philippines.

Documented cases

At the conference held at the University of the Philippines, the group presented its report which concluded that "the Arroyo government has failed in its obligation to respect, protect and fulfill human rights."

From Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, TFDP documented the following cases of human rights violations throughout the country:

- Arrests and detention—21 cases, 55 victims;
- Torture—10 cases, 23 victims;
- Displacement—42 families;
- Military harassment—518 victims;
- Casualties of military operations—38 dead, 13 wounded;
- Loss of homes to illegal demolition—20,300 victims.

As of September, there remained 265 political prisoners and detainees in 59 detention centers all over the Philippines, according to TFDP.

At the forum, the group also presented a video documentary explaining the relevance of human rights and the need to safeguard them.

The group said the video is to be used in TFDP's advocacy and educational campaign for the protection of human rights.

"The celebration of human rights week calls on all of us to intensify the campaign to denounce the violation of human rights and educate the people regarding their rights," said Sr. Cres Lucero, SFIC, executive director of TFDP, in a statement.

Extrajudicial killings

Lucero took President Macapagal-Arroyo to task for the unabated extrajudicial killings of human rights advocates and activists.

"As (these) killings continue, so does the growing state repression of legitimate dissent," she said.

"The military and intelligence community have aggravated the situation by using red-baiting tactics and making public pronouncements tagging progressive organizations and terrorist forms," she said.

Killings of left-wing militants and other activists in recent years had led to calls for the government to curb the military and police, but up to as recently as last week a human rights activist was killed by an unknown assailant in Ilocos Sur.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, December 5, 2005
2nd Week of Advent

1st Reading:	Is 35:1-10
Gospel:	Luke 5:17-26

One day Jesus was teaching and many Pharisees and teachers of the Law had come from every part of Galilee and Judea and even from Jerusalem. They were sitting there while the power of the Lord was at work to heal the sick. Then some men brought a paralyzed man who lay on his mat. They tried to enter the house to place him before Jesus, but they couldn't find a way through the crowd. So they went up on the roof and, removing the tiles, they lowered him on his mat into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "My friend, your sins are forgiven." At once the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to wonder, "This man insults God! Who can forgive sins but only God?"

But Jesus knew their thoughts and asked them, "Why are you reacting like this? Which is easier to say: 'Your sins are forgiven,' or: 'Get up and walk?' Now you shall know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." And Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home." At once the man stood before them. He took up the mat he had been lying on and went home praising God.

Amazement seized the people and they praised God. They were filled with a holy fear and said, "What wonderful things we have seen today!"

Commentary

Amazement seizes the people. The works of God are about life, about friendship and serving one another in need, about faith in desperate times, about forgiveness and learning again to fear only God and no one else. God comes with courage, strength to stand up and transformation not only of human beings but the very ground we stand on. In the presence of our God everything matures, blooms and bursts forth with freshness and passion and grace. Does our presence in the world bring forth such peace and wholeness, such justice and grace? Make it so today!

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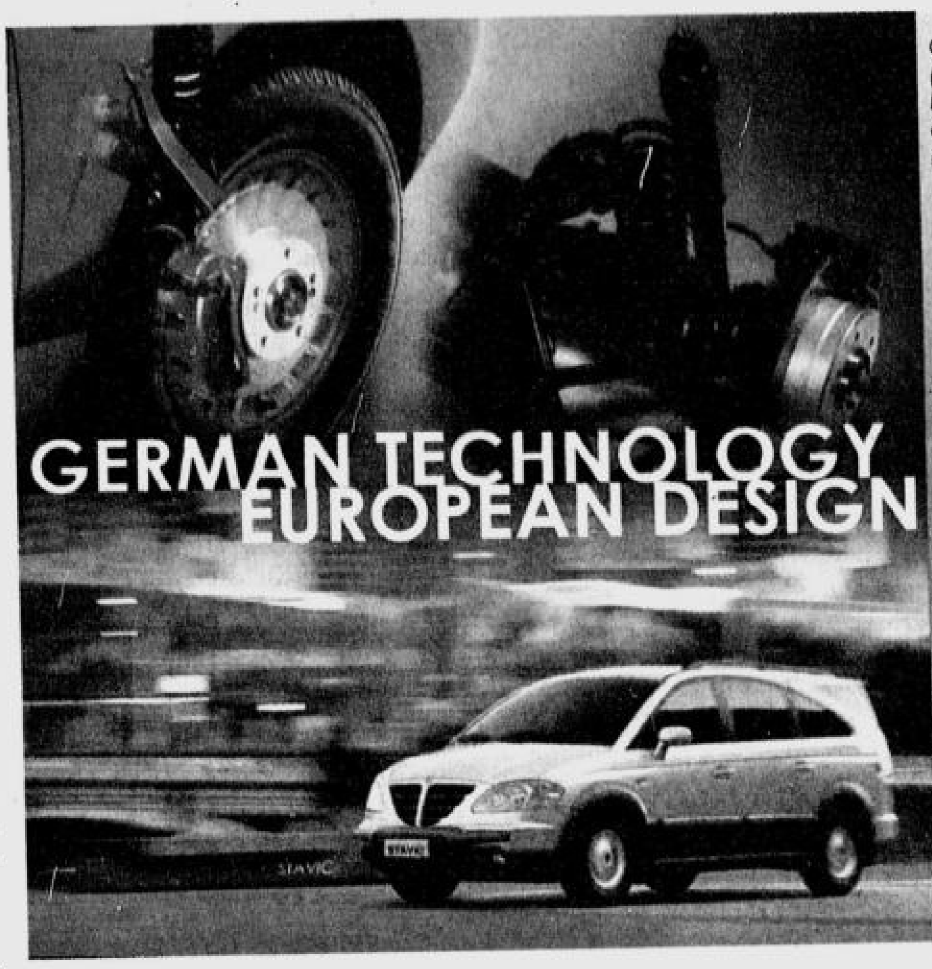

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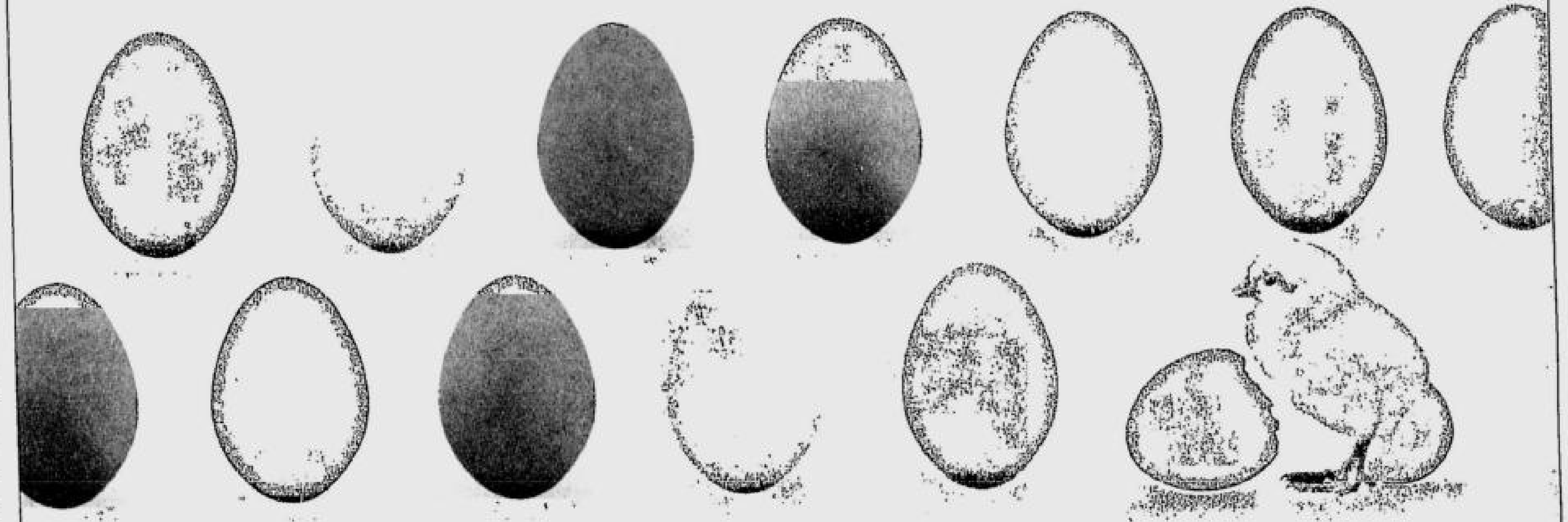

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Editor Luverne B. Gueco

No. 3 al-Qaida leader killed in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD—AN AL-QAIDA COMMANDER ranked the third most senior leader in Osama bin Laden's network was killed in a tribal region of Pakistan bordering Afghanistan, President Pervez Musharraf said on Saturday.

Abu Hamza Rabia, an Egyptian credited with heading al-Qaida's international operations, was among five people killed in an explosion at a house where they were hiding in North Waziristan on Thursday.

Rabia, in his 30s, took over the number three spot, behind Bin Laden and his Egyptian deputy Ayman al-Zawahri, after the capture of Abu Faraj Farj al Liby in Pakistan in May, US and Pakistani security officials said.

Rabia was involved in plots to attack the United States and his death was a serious blow for al-Qaida, according to a US counterterrorism official in Washington.

"After Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahri, Rabia was the most senior al-Qaida official for international terrorism planning," the official said.

"Rabia served in the leadership group as chief of international operations planning. His international portfolio included planning attacks against the United States," the official said.

Rabia's death was confirmed by Musharraf on his arrival in Kuwait on an official visit, although the Pakistani military has not found the body and are relying on intelligence reports and intercepted messages between al-Qaida members.

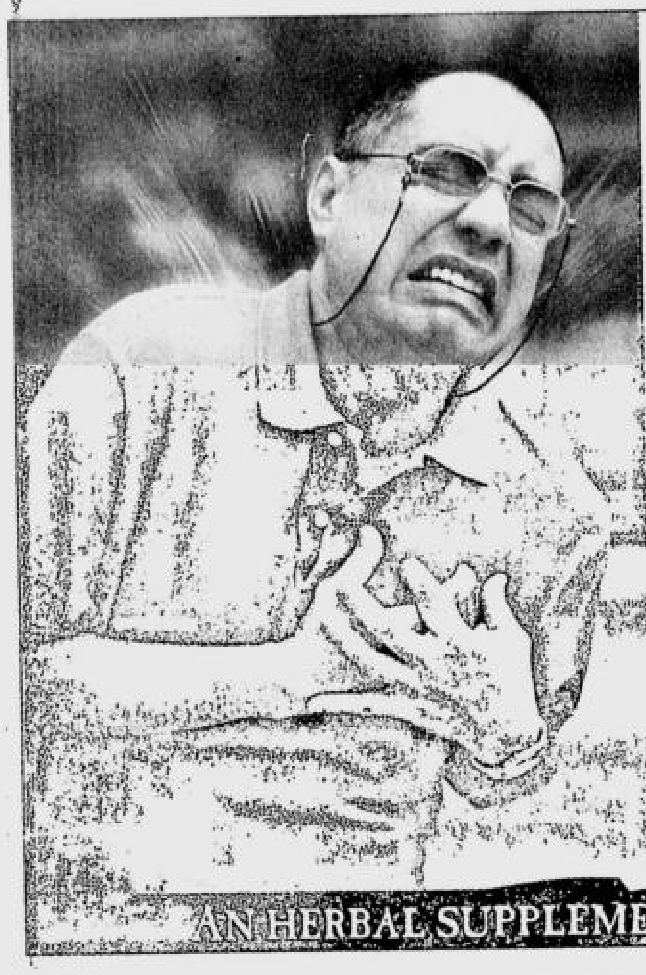
"Yes indeed, 200 percent. I think he was killed the day before yesterday if I'm not wrong," Musharraf told reporters.

Pakistani intelligence sources said two of those killed with Rabia were also believed to be Arabs, while other two dead were boys related to the tribesman harboring them.

Rabia was involved in two attempts on Musharraf's life in December 2003 and security forces had been hunting him for some time, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said.

Rabia was killed in Haisori, a village near Mir Ali in the tribal agency, just 30 km from Afghanistan where US forces are based.

Many al-Qaida members took refuge in Pakistan's semi-autonomous tribal belt after US-led forces ousted Afghanistan's Taliban in 2001. *Reuters*



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TO: ALL RICE BASED FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS (FOS) AND ALL OTHER SECTORS INTERESTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RICE IMPORTATION PROGRAM FOR 2006:

IN ADDITION TO MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR A02K511-003 DARED NOVEMBER 16, 2005, THE 100,000 MT RICE IMPORTATION ALLOCATED TO FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS AND THE 38,000 MT ALLOCATED TO ALL OTHER SECTORS SHOULD BE IMPORTED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES.

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(Sgd.) **GREGORIO Y. TAN, JR.**
Administrator

(PDI - Dec. 5, 2005)

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For more information, please call Ms. Melinda B. Cortez and Ms. Hazel S. Mamuad of the PMO Marketing Department at telephone nos. 892-2145 or 818-4733 or 818-8305

(PDI—December 3, 4 & 5, 2005)

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Bird flu hits Ukraine for first time

KIEV, UKRAINE—UKRAINE HAS RECORDED its first bird flu outbreak, prompting the president to declare a state of emergency in four Crimean villages following the deaths of more than 1,600 chickens and geese.

Dead birds in the Black Sea peninsula tested positive for the H5 subtype, officials said Saturday. Bird flu had already been detected in neighboring Romania nearly two months ago, and Ukrainian officials scrambled to reassure this nation of 47 million that they were well-prepared.

Ukrainians, meanwhile, began debating whether to stop buying poultry—the only meat many in this poor nation can afford.

"I don't see any reason for panic, the situation is under control," Agriculture Minister Oleksandr Baranivsky told reporters in Kiev after announcing a 3-km quarantine around the four villages.

Samples were sent to laboratories in Italy and Britain for further tests to determine whether the disease could be the deadly H5N1 strain, which is being monitored for fear it could mutate into a form that is easily transferable among humans. The results are expected by Thursday, Baranivsky said.

Worldwide attention is focused on the H5N1 strain, which has devastated poultry stocks in Asia and killed at least 69 people in the region since 2003.

Domestic fowl began dying in Ukraine's Crimean region on Oct. 18, but the deaths increased significantly last month, rising to 1,621. Positive test results for the H5 strain came back Saturday, Baranivsky said.

He attributed the bird flu to contact between migratory birds at the Crimea's Lake Savash and domestic fowl. The peninsula had been seen as an area of special concern for authorities because it is a landing spot for many migratory birds.

Under the state-of-emergency ordered by President Viktor Yushchenko, no one will be allowed to enter or leave the quarantine, and experts will visit every home to inform residents to count flocks. All birds—even if healthy—will be slaughtered, starting Sunday and their carcasses burned.

Residents will be compensated as much as 10 hryvna (about $2) for each culled bird, Baranivsky said.

The state of emergency also sets up a larger 10-km zone that will be put under close monitoring. *AP*

Doctors cleared after refusing to inseminate lesbian

SAN DIEGO—A STATE APPELLATE COURT ruled that two fertility doctors had the right to refuse to artificially inseminate a lesbian on the grounds that it would have violated their religious beliefs.

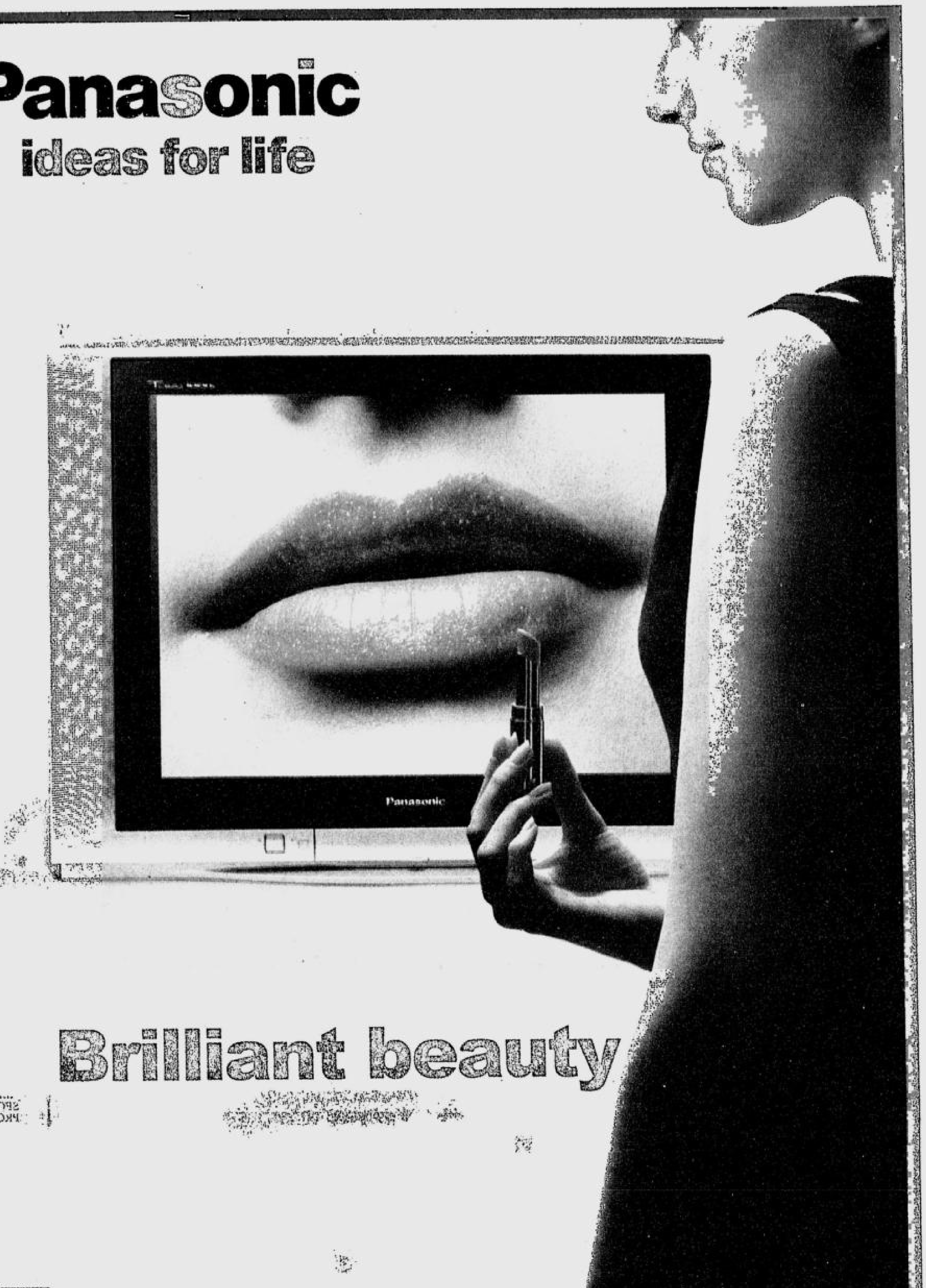
The 4th District Court of Appeals ruling Friday reversed a lower court decision that had said Dr. Christine Brody and Dr. Douglas Fenton could not use religion as a defense against a lawsuit filed by Guadalupe Benitez.

Instead, the panel found that the doctors were within their rights because they based their decision on Benitez's unmarried status and that discrimination based on marital status is not prohibited by California law.

Benitez, 33, sued the doctors and their small practice in Vista in 2001, claiming their actions violated California's antidiscrimination laws.

The doctors contended they denied treatment because Benitez and her registered domestic partner of 15 years were not married. Benitez's attorneys argued that she was denied because of her sexual orientation, not her marital status.

Benitez was eventually treated elsewhere and gave birth to a boy, now 3 years old. *AP*



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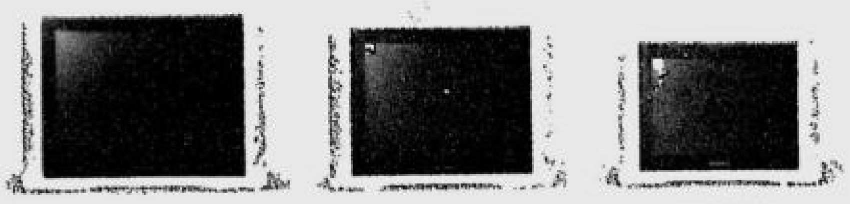

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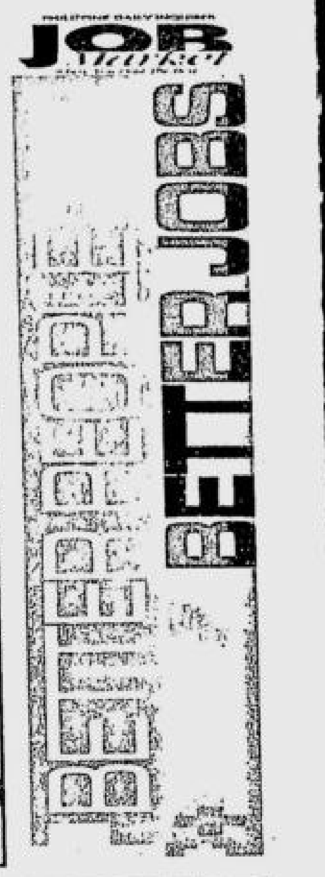

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Annan to fire top UN exec

UNITED NATIONS—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has decided to fire the head of the UN election unit, who has become a star in the world body for supervising polls in dangerous places like Afghanistan and Iraq, two UN officials said.

The reasons for the dismissal of Carina Perelli, a 48-year old Uruguayan, were harassment of staff and management lapses, the officials said on Saturday, speaking on condition of anonymity. Annan was expected to make the announcement on Monday or Tuesday.

"A lot of people in the unit were talking about leaving because of the atmosphere she had created due to her behavior to subordinates," said one senior official. He said that Perelli, director of the electoral assistance division, had been informed of the decision.

Robert Sullivan, the UN duty spokesperson, declined comment.

Harassment

Perelli was accused last August by the UN personnel department of presiding over an office that tolerated sexual harassment of staff. She was cleared, however, of allegations that she misused UN funds for travel to Latin America.

The charges arose after she had won praise from President George W. Bush for her role in preparing national elections in Iraq. She was outspoken at news briefings and did not try to hide obstacles in pursuing her tasks.

"It is a very sad case and incredibly unfortunate," said another UN official. "Professionally, she is a fantastic resource in an incredibly tough job but we had to be strict on this one."

Last December, Kieran Prendergast, the former UN undersecretary general for political affairs, had hired an outside consulting firm to review the election department after staff complaints.

Favoritism

The Swiss firm Mannet SARL, in a leaked 22-page report in August, cited her personal courage and extensive knowledge of election procedures. But it said she had shown favoritism toward a small circle of employees and created an atmosphere of sexual jokes, unwelcome advances, and professional harassment.

"The work environment within the division is considered offensive by many of those interviewed and has contributed to emotional harm," the report said.

She ran a unit of 13 professionals for nine years but the report said staff turnover had been high.

Perelli can appeal the decision. Her response to the allegations by the Swiss firm had been delayed because she helped organize Afghanistan's elections in September and Iraq's constitutional referendum in October. She was also involved in preparations for Iraq's December elections. *Reuters*

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Howard retreats from anti-death vow as Aussie's remains are brought home

SYDNEY—AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER John Howard backed away from initiating a campaign to try to end the death penalty in Asia, as the family and lawyers of an Australian drug trafficker executed in Singapore arrived home with his body.

The plane carrying Nguyen Tuong Van's coffin landed in Melbourne early on Sunday morning, along with Nguyen's mother Kim and twin brother Khoa.

The 25-year-old was hanged on Friday for carrying 400 g of heroin while in transit in Singapore three years ago.

His lawyer, Lex Lasry, told reporters in Singapore he would urge the Australian government to take the lead to campaign for the abolishment of the death penalty in the region.

"We will ask the government to formalize a strong policy so Australia can take the lead, especially in this region, against the death penalty and in particular against the mandatory death penalty," Lasry said at Singapore's Changi Airport.

However, Howard said it was important to be realistic about what could be achieved.

"If anyone imagines a diplomatic offensive by Australia is going to change the attitude of China, or the attitude of Singapore or Malaysia or other countries in the region to capital punishment, then I think they are mistaken," he said on Australian Broadcasting Corp. television.

"Let us practice what we believe in in Australia, let us argue that case for the benefit of Australians overseas, but let us keep some sense of proportion."

Nguyen's execution put a spotlight on Singapore's death penalty, which dictates automatic execution for anyone over 18 convicted of carrying more than 15 grams (0.5 ounces) of heroin.

Lasry condemned Singapore's use of the mandatory death penalty and called for the city-state to review its laws.

"Singapore is going to have to understand that a first-world country cannot continue to hang people without giving them a chance to say why they should not be executed."

Nguyen, born in a refugee camp in Thailand, had said he was carrying drugs to help pay off his brother's debts from loan sharks.

Australian television networks crossed live to Changi prison on Friday morning and also to an emotional church service in Melbourne where a bell tolled once for each of Nguyen's 25 years.

Australian Attorney-General Philip Ruddock described Nguyen's execution as an "unfortunate, barbaric act," but several polls have shown that Australians have been divided over the execution.

Singapore leaders and activists are sceptical that Singapore, described by rights group Amnesty International as having one of the highest execution rates in the world relative to its population, will repeal its austere laws.

"I can confidently say he will not be the last to be hanged," said opposition politician Steve Chia at a forum held on Saturday by civil rights group Think Centre.

"Most Singaporeans are too caught up in making a decent living to care about one convicted trafficker in our society," said Chia, who is also a nominated member of parliament.

Reuters

FURIOUS HONG KONG
Tens of thousands of people take part in a prodemocracy march in the streets of Hong Kong, Dec. 4, to demand the full democracy that was promised when Britain handed its crown-jewel colony back to China eight years ago. AFP

Quake-prone Japan shaken by building scandal

KAWASAKI, JAPAN—WHEN YOUNG COUPLES bought luxurious condominiums in this southern suburb of Tokyo last year, they never thought the value of the biggest purchase in their lives would evaporate within months.

"I'm 35 years old now and bought the house with a 35-year loan," said a resident of Grand Stage Kawasaki Daishi, one of a growing number of buildings whose data on quake resistance were falsified by a cost-cutting architect.

"My son will start going to school next year, and my wife and I are expecting another baby. This is more of a financial problem."

Japan—which endures 20 percent of the world's major temblors—has long prided itself on building a quake-proof infrastructure that the rest of the world would envy.

But since architect Hidetsugu Aneha confessed in November to having cooked the data on condominium and hotel buildings around Tokyo, more residents are facing up to fears more pressing than an earthquake itself.

The scandal, spreading nationwide, is each day revealing more buildings that would be at risk during an earthquake, increasing the number of people who may have to move out their homes to the scale of thousands.

At least 43 buildings were listed as of last week as possibly vulnerable due to the falsified data.

For the residents of 23-unit Grand Stage Kawasaki Daishi, the fear of possibly losing their houses while still carrying the loan is spine-chilling.

The Kawasaki City office has told residents to move out the dangerous building by mid-December, the first such order issued since the scandal surfaced.

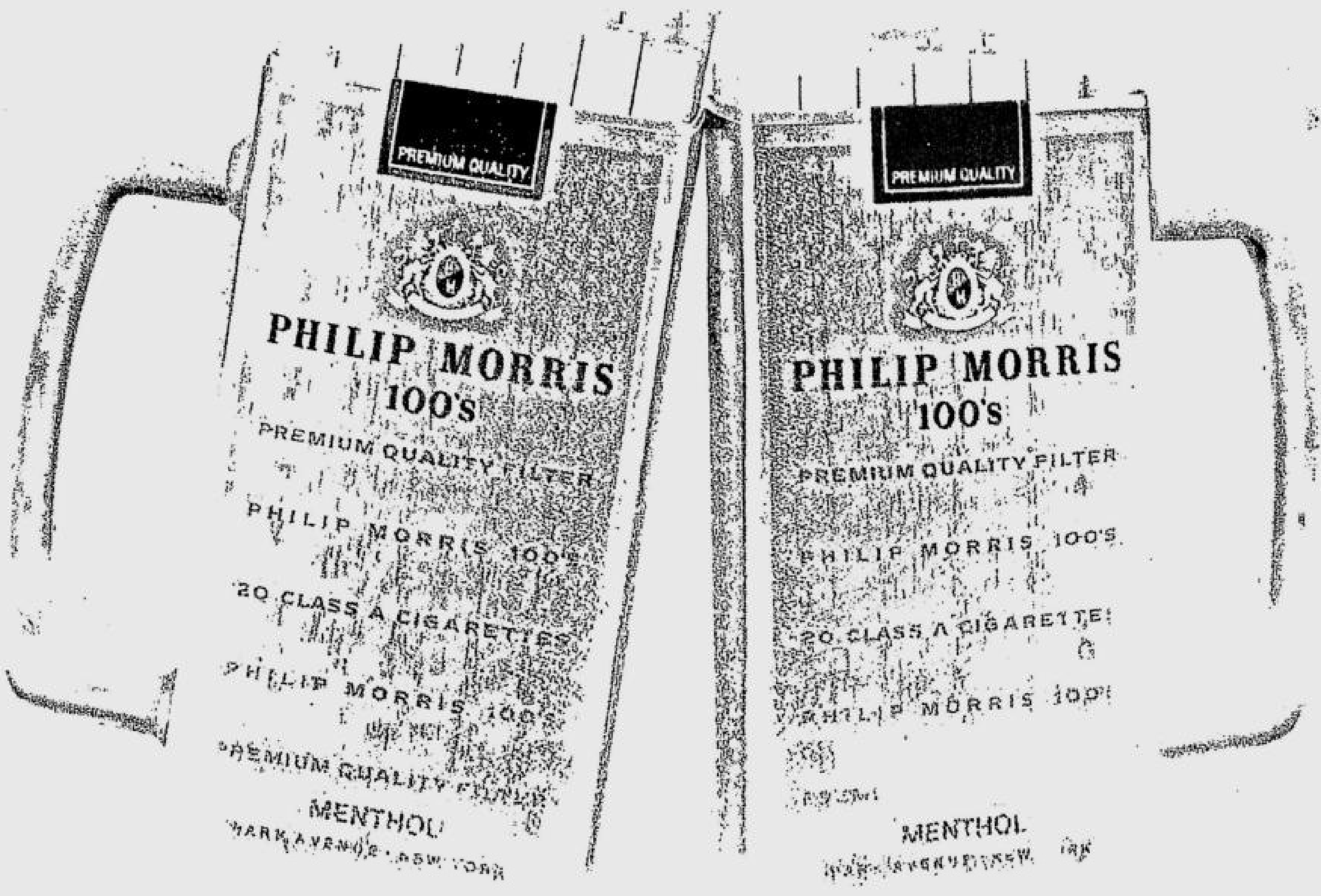
"The government, as well as media, seem to think we'll all be fine as long as we're out of the building," said the 35-year-old, who like other residents declined to be named as he was not a chosen community representative.

"Any of us could go crazy thinking about double loans for the next 30 years, a more serious problem than the risk of a major quake itself."

The prices of the condominium units in this upscale commuter town range from 36.8 million yen to 61.8 million yen ($307,000 to $516,000) each.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe said the government will make about 2,200 residences available for the unlikely suburban refugees when they are forced to move out in mid-December, and the government decided on a tax reduction measure for them.

But if they move, the residents would have to pay for moving and new rent or a housing loan on top of the loan for the condo. *AFP*



Government Warning: Cigarette s

FRANCE'S FAIREST Alexandra Rosenfeld (center) is kissed by Miss France 2005 Cindy Fabre (left) and Jury President Laeticia Halliday after being crowned Miss France 2006 in Cannes, southeastern France, Dec. 3. Forty-five participants competed for the title. REUTERS

Tens of thousands protest global warming amid UN climate meet

MONTREAL—TENS OF THOUSANDS of people demonstrated Saturday in Montreal, host of the UN Climate Change Conference, to demand that governments worldwide take concrete measures against global warming.

Similar protests were expected in about 30 cities across the world, but organizers said the biggest crowd would be in Montreal, where the UN conference started Monday.

"We are 40,000 today, and we are really proud of you," march leader Florent Vollant told the crowds. "You braved the cold to come, and it's important because the world is watching us."

Demonstrators want countries to negotiate a long-term plan to boost the battle against climate change.

They are also pressing Canada to lead actions against global warming and urging it to exceed its commitments in the Kyoto Protocol.

Some 10,000 delegates and members of environmental groups are meeting here for the UN Climate Change Conference ending Dec. 9.

The controversial Kyoto protocol, aiming to cut greenhouse gas emissions, became fully operational on Wednesday after the conference adopted the final rules.

The 34 signatory countries—which do not include the United States or Australia—passed the final regulatory measures by consensus.

So-called greenhouse gases, notably carbon dioxide, which is generated by burning of fossil fuels like gas, oil and coal, enlarge an atmospheric layer that blocks radiant heat from escaping Earth into space.

Scientists worry that the resulting increased temperatures are melting polar ice caps and heating tropical seas, with unknown and possibly disastrous consequences for Earth's weather, flora and fauna.

US environmental groups on Saturday presented the US consulate here with 600,000 signatures on a petition seeking US action on global warming, organizers said.

"We are here representing the people of the United States who want action to be taken," said Ted Glick, of the Climate Crisis Coalition.

"Sixty percent of the American people want action taken on global warming," he said.

He said the 600,000 came from 190 cities in the United States. *AFP*

S. Korea cloning pioneer may soon return to work

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA'S CLONING PIONEER Hwang Woo-suk, who has gone into hiding since apologizing last month for ethical breaches in his breakthrough research, may soon return to work, a news report said Sunday.

"We think he may come back to work this coming week in order to check on the research," team member Lee Byeong-cheon was quoted saying by the Yonhap news agency. "We have kept persuading him to come to the research lab."

Hwang has been in seclusion, reportedly at a remote Buddhist temple, since Nov. 24, when he admitted having covered up the fact that members of his research team had donated their own eggs to his research effort.

International standards ban egg donations by researchers, especially junior staff who may be more vulnerable to pressure.

Hwang apologized and stepped down from all official posts, including the chairmanship of a new state-financed research body, the World Stem Cell Hub.

But the controversy has shown no sign of abating.

Hwang's humiliation has sparked public support for the scientist here, where more than 700 women pledged within two weeks to donate their eggs for his research.

Seoul-based broadcaster MBC, which aired a program critical of Hwang, has become the target of public protests, and some advertisers have withdrawn commercials.

MBC says it will not give in to pressure and is preparing a follow-up program that would allege indications that Hwang's epoch-making stem cell research itself may be faulty. *AFP*

Stem cell research by Hwang's group

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREAN RESEARCHERS LED by Hwang Woo-suk of Seoul National University are at the forefront of stem cell research.

In May, their study on using tissue from patients to grow stem cells answered a promise that could one day provide human tissue and organs to cure terminal illnesses.

Hwang apologized on Nov. 24 for ethical lapses in his work.

Two junior women researchers donated their eggs for the team's work, a practice which has been seen as an ethical violation because research associates could feel they were coerced into making such donations.

Following is some of Hwang's recent work:

- Therapeutic cloning—Hwang's team cloned the first human embryo for research and developed the first tailored embryonic stem cells.

Such advances could eventually lead to cures for debilitating and deadly diseases such as Parkinson's and severe spinal cord injury, by taking skin from a patient to grow custom-made stem cells with that patient's specific genetic material.

Donated human eggs were hollowed out and skin cells from patients injected into it and then fused. The eggs begin dividing and sometimes become embryos.

The process, published in the journal Science earlier this year, resolves the complication of immune rejection, fulfilling a basic promise of using cloning to cure terminal illnesses.

- World stem cell bank—South Korea established the bank in October with the aim of keeping the country at the forefront in the field. Stem cells are stored at Seoul National University and made available to international researchers.

Hwang resigned his chairmanship from the bank when he announced the ethical lapses at his laboratory.

- Human embryos—Hwang has said he is not intending to clone humans. The early-2004 study paved the way for the start of therapeutic cloning. Hwang and his team removed the nucleus from a human egg and replaced it with the core of another cell taken from the female donor.
- Fighting mad cow disease—Hwang said in 2003 that his team cloned cows with high levels of a protein structure that makes them resistant to mad cow disease.

Cow's eggs were injected with somatic cells with a high-level of a protein structure, and cultivated them in surrogate cows. The animals are under a long-term study on effectiveness. *Reuters*

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Well done, Team RP!

EDITORIAL

WE CONGRATULATE THE PHILIPPINE DELEGAtion to the 23rd Southeast Asian Games for winning the biggest number of gold medals. Officially, an overall champion is not supposed to be named, but it has become a popular tradition to name one on the basis of the number of golds won.

The Philippine contingent's triumph comes like refreshing rain to a troubled nation thirsty for good news and positive developments. And even if only for a brief week, the nation forgot its troubles and stood united in cheering for its athletes. Not even the Thai accusation of cheating could shake our athletes' steadfast determination to win honors for our country. If anything, it even prodded them to try harder for the gold.

The Philippine contingent improved on its second-place finish at the 1991 SEA Games because it was better prepared this time. Despite the limited funding, the officials and coaches were able to train the athletes better. It helped that some corporate donors gave substantial assistance and several city governments hosted some events held outside Metro Manila.

The Filipino athletes also enjoyed the home court advantage. There's nothing like the cheers and applause of one's countrymen to push athletes to the limit. It also helped that events in which Filipinos are strong, like softball, baseball, arnis and other traditional sports, were included in the Games.

Accounting for many of the gold medals were about two score Filipino-Americans who had been exposed to strong competition in the United States and other countries.

As early as now, we should be preparing for the next SEA Games to show everybody that our victory this year was no fluke. In the meantime, let's celebrate the triumph of the Filipino fighting heart and spirit.

The Capalla ad

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

TEXT MESSAGES HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING SAYing that the Philippine Daily Inquirer was unfair to Archbishop Fernando Capalla of Davao. The text messages say that the "Inquirer refused to print an advertisement in the archbishop's defense." The ad would have answered a column of Conrado de Quiros (Nov. 23, 2005) criticizing Archbishop Capalla. Another paper ran the ad.

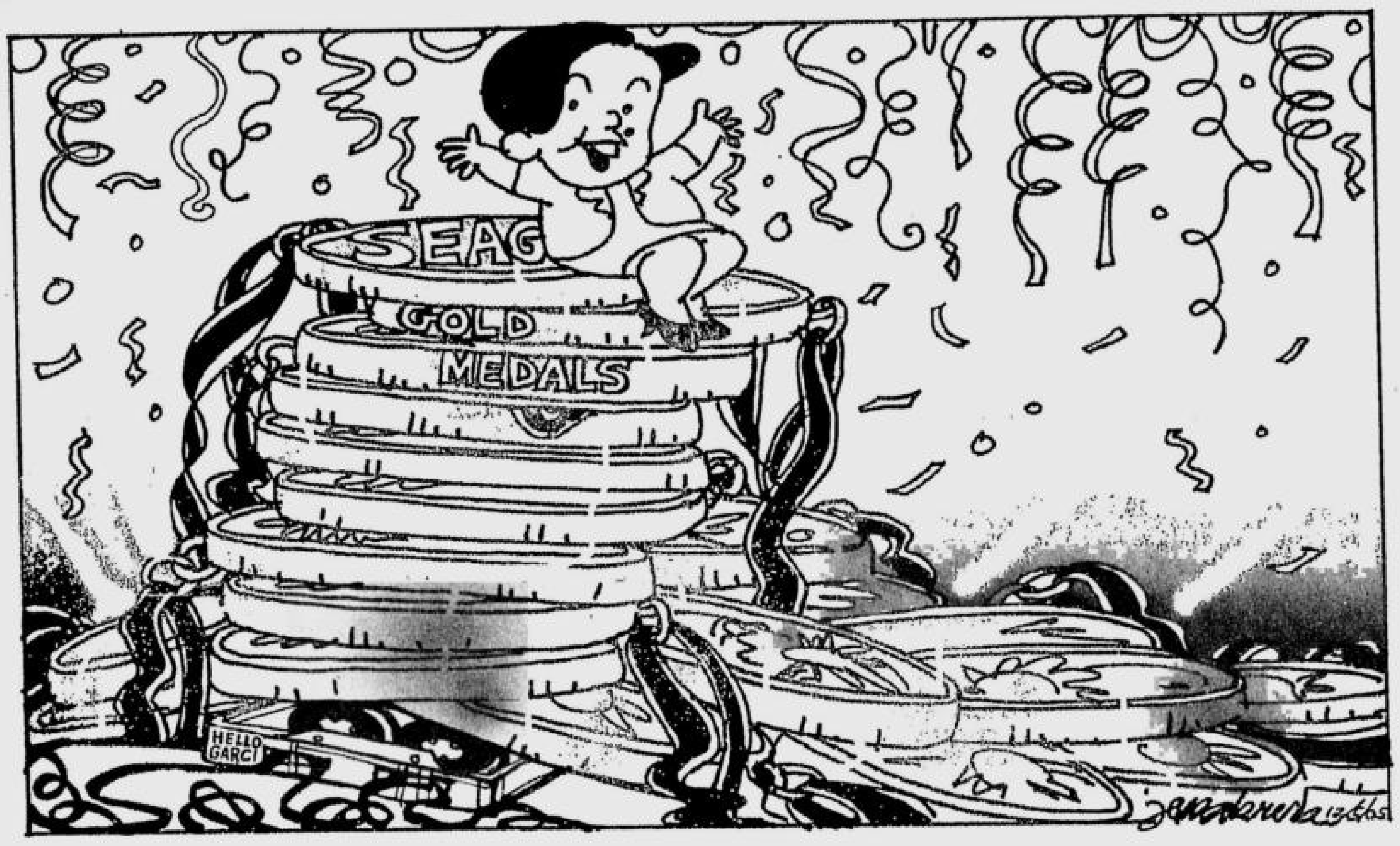
This is what happened: The INQUIRER agent in Davao City faxed the ad—which carried a picture of the archbishop encased in a shattered picture frame—to the account executive in the INQUIRER's Makati office. The Makati AE in turn sent the ad to the legal department of the INQUIRER. As a matter of policy, all INQUIRER advertorials need to pass through the legal department for it to check for libel. The legal department withheld a decision on the ad because it could not understand it as faxed. What the lawyers saw was a picture of the archbishop's face behind shattered glass and they thought the image was damaging to him.

The INQUIRER believes in freedom of the press and so gives its columnists "the widest latitude in the choice of topics within their areas of competence." Our columnists' freedom to comment on current issues is circumscribed only by the laws of the land, including the laws on libel and the law on inciting to sedition, as well as by the Journalists' Code of Ethics and the Canons of Taste for Journalists.

The views expressed by De Quiros in his column, like those of the other columnists, do not necessarily reflect those of the management and the editors of the INQUIRER. This is not a case of the INQUIRER against the Church or members of its hierarchy, such as Archbishop Capalla. The Church itself allows the expression of views, such as those of Fr. Robert Reyes, that do not reflect those of the hierarchy. Similarly, the INQUIRER stands for the expression of all views, whether these are consistent with those of the management and the editors, or not.

We regret that we were not able to run the ad on the day the advertisers wanted it published. There was no intention on our part to deny Archbishop Capalla and his friends and supporters the right to answer De Quiros' column and express their opinion. Management, realizing that a mistake had been made, offered to run the same ad for free, but its offer was turned down. We invite the archbishop's friends and supporters to express their views in another ad or in a press statement and we will publish them.

ISAGANI YAMBOT
Publisher



'Legalized cheating' in sports competitions

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THIS IS A JOKE THAT'S NOW GOING THE rounds: Perhaps Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra jumped to the conclusion that there was cheating in the SEA Games because of our notoriety. If Filipinos could cheat in such an important event as a presidential election, he must have thought, they could also cheat in sports. Especially since the person accused of having engineered the election cheating suddenly reappeared just before the start of the SEA Games. But the Thais should not point accusing fingers at the athletes or at those officiating the games but at You-Know-Who.

Poor Filipinos. A gang of cheats conspires to steal an election and the whole nation is suspected of cheating in sports.

The Thais obviously saw replays of the 4 x 10,000 race, where the Filipino runner clearly blocked the Thai who was catching up at the finish line. That was clearly cheating, and Thai television channels replayed that video clip over and over (Filipino TV channels seemed to be ashamed to show it). But that Filipino was disqualified, and the gold medal awarded to the Thai runner. Nevertheless, it convinced the Thais that there was cheating. Thaksin was playing up to the home crowd when he was interviewed; he was giving the Thai team an alibi for not accumulating the most medals as it did in past SEA Games.

What we should do is to replay all the events where Filipinos and Thais competed and which the Filipinos won; identify the referees and judges in those sports, including their nationalities, and let the people decide for themselves if there was cheating.

Having made clear that there seems to be no cheating in the current SEA Games, I would now like to say that there really is "cheating" in all international sports competitions, including the Olympics. I call it "legalized cheating" and it happens long before the actual competitions begin. It is "legalized cheating" because it is sanctioned by the rules. Nevertheless it departs from the true spirit of the Olympics and other international competitions.

This "legalized cheating" takes many forms. One is giving citizenship to outstanding athletes who are foreigners. Before one SEA Games in the past, a city-state naturalized wholesale a group of athletes who were clearly Africans. Other countries do that routinely, including rich countries that already have strong teams. The Philippines is guilty of that sin, too. And not only in the SEA Games and other international sports competitions but also in local leagues. The scandal over the Filipino-American basketball players, who were found not to be Filipinos and thus were expelled, is still fresh in our minds. One such player, who is clearly not a Filipino, is still playing for a Filipino team and is still the subject of controversy. One of our congressmen is even planning to file a bill to legalize this practice here in the Philippines.

Then there is the prerogative given to host countries, allowing them to include sports in which they excel. If you haven't noticed, there are many Asian martial arts events in the SEA Games. They were included by host countries in earlier Games. Pakistan and India included games that only they played when they hosted international competitions. Naturally, they won all the medals for those sports. Technically, the Philippines could have included "*piko*" and "*patintero*" in the current SEA Games, and such a move would have been legal.

The Olympics and other international sports competitions are supposed to be limited to amateur athletes. But basketball was opened to professional players when the American Dream Team was formed for the Olympics. Other sporting events followed: professional players, many of them multi-millionaires, were allowed to compete in the Olympics. What will happen when professional boxers are allowed to compete against amateurs?

"Faster, higher, stronger" is the motto of the Olympics. But the Olympics now includes such events as "Dancesport" which is dancing, not a sport. The SEA Games now includes "billiards," a game that is being considered for inclusion in the Olympics later. Where are the "faster, higher and stronger" characteristics of these contests?

Why are these anomalies allowed? Because of the desire of competing nations, especially host countries, to accumulate the most medals. In this sense, Thaksin is right: some countries, including the Philippines, have made accumulating gold medals a greater priority than upholding the sporting spirit. "I believe that the SEA Games should exist to help athletes lift their standards," said Thaksin, adding that "It should not be about winning gold medals."

Alas, the opposite seems to be true. In the reporting of the SEA Games, the lead is always how many gold medals the Philippines has won. Some reports, done in the Filipino language, even used a word that has a negative connotation: "*namamayagpag*" which means "flying high." But in Filipino, the term connotes an element of "boastfulness." The winning athletes are not given their just due; their names are mentioned only in passing. On the other hand, the total number of medals won by the countries is given more importance. This greed for medals by host countries can easily arouse suspicions of cheating.

These concerns should be discussed in a sports summit, as Thaksin proposes. Let's go back to the spirit of the original Games: not medals and trophies but fair play.

Holier, and jollier

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

BISHOP ROMEO DE LA CRUZ HAS AN INTEResting text message. He (or his friends) did not send it to me, I got it through friends who thought (rightly) that I could start my day with a good laugh.

The message reads: "On Nov. 23 PDI's Conrado de Quiros branded Archbishop Fernando Capalla as 'deeply crooked.' Then the INQUIRER refused to print an advertorial in the Archbishop's defense. Instead the Phil. Star is running it today (Dec. 1). Today, I will STOP my subscription to the PDI. You might want to do the same."

Well, I do not know that my favorite newspaper is required to print every advertorial that every civilian, military, or religious official in this country wants published. Why De la Cruz (if he is indeed the author of the text) should think that being scorned there naturally constitutes a breach of press freedom, only he can say. My views are my own, they are not the INQUIRER's. I don't know why their ad didn't see print. I can only guess that either my newspaper figured the ad had to fall in line like all the other ads, or it figured I am far too blessed already I can do without the free advertisement.

(Please see Publisher's Note in the Editorial column of this page.)

But levity aside, let me do them the favor of putting their ad out in this space, if not in image at least in word. It shows a picture of Capalla in all his archbishopric finery. The glass frame of the picture is broken right smack where his face is, and a stone with a fragment of my column pasted on it lies at its feet. Alongside it are the words: "Holier-than-thou?" and a quotation from Proverbs: "Blessings crown the head of the righteous, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked."

Well, to begin with, what can I say about De la Cruz's declaration to stop subscribing to the INQUIRER? If I were part of his flock, I'd be dismayed that he means to deprive himself some more of things that could improve his mind, apart from his reading skills. The truth shall set you free, the ad shall cost you only an arm and a leg. He misses the point. The "deeply crooked" he refers to comes from this paragraph in my column: "What we have in fact is a religion that has little to do with spirituality. You need only look at Archbishop Fernando Capalla to see it. That is what Filipinos being the most religious among all Asians means: Deeply upright, deeply crooked."

My point being that Filipino religiousness, presumably the highest in the world, carries with it a great deal of hypocrisy. It is riveted more to ritual than to substance, to form rather than content. It's OK to murder so long as you confess; it's OK to rape so long as you flagellate yourself on Good Friday. Thus the paradox of us being deeply upright and deeply crooked.

But come to think of it, I wouldn't have minded referring to Capalla directly as being "deeply crooked." That is different from saying he is a crook. Whether he is financially crooked or not, I leave others to argue. Though his own admission of taking money from Pagcor presumably to give to the poor must say not very savory things about him in that respect. Since when did the Church of Davao replace the DSWD as the prime source of beneficence or gratuity? Hasn't the CBCP been saying the Church is there to uplift the poor of spirit and not the poor of Pidal?

But I refer first and foremost to moral crookedness. I agree by all the sanctions of heaven and earth: "Violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked." But surely there is no more telltale sign that a mouth is wicked than that it spews hypocrisy, double standards and downright lies. Surely it is one that says on one hand "our main reason for denouncing…the Estrada presidency is his shameless trampling of the sacred moral values our people hold in high esteem" and on the other "we declare our prayerfully discerned collective decision that we do not demand her (GMA's) resignation." Surely it is one that says on one hand give to God the things that are God's and to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and on the other loudly—and gratuitously—proclaims that the last elections were clean and honest?

I'd go farther and say violence overwhelms a mouth that is kept shut in the face of hypocrisy, double standards and downright lies. At least Erap lied only to his wife, GMA has lied to the voters (and to Rizal when he vowed on his grave not to run). At least Erap suppressed only his age and urge toward wine, women and song, GMA has suppressed all testimony on and evidence of her cheating. The second is not a more thorough trampling of our sacred values?

Just one last parting shot. The juxtaposition of the huge picture of Capalla in his regal robes and the small picture of me in my decade-and-a-half-old youthful glory does tend to pose the subliminal question: "How dare this insignificant pest cast aspersions on this saintly cleric?" Well, forgive my Sunday-school catechism, but I've always thought big and small, important and unimportant, malevolent and benign had nothing to do with positions and accoutrements but with hearts and minds. Not with the body but with the soul. I've always thought stature was the product of clarity of thought and not of kingliness of robes. I've always thought integrity was the product of purity of heart and not of loftiness of station. I've always thought character was the product of one's deeds and not one's titles.

I do recall too that the God that Christians worship, Catholic bishops and archbishops among them in all their splendorous attire, was born stark naked in a smelly barn among the animals while wintry winds howled outside—because his parents could not find refuge in any respectable home. An event we're celebrating soon. Appearances can be very deceiving.

Holier than thou?

You bet I am!

Desperately trying

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

THE ADVOCATES OF CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION now seem to be scouring the bottom of the barrel for a possible constitutional revision strategy. True, a committee of the House of Representatives, by a slim margin, has approved a resolution calling for a joint session of the House and Senate to formulate changes in the current Constitution. The resolution apparently is not being received hospitably by the Senate.

Probably, because an inhospitable Senate reception was expected, the resolution had not yet reached the Senate as of Friday night, a most reliable source told me. And when it does reach the Senate, it very likely will face a paralyzing archival or definitive interment. These discouraging prospects are bringing out the "best" in Lower House juristic thinking.

First, there is the thinking—coming from the South—that, in case the Senate refuses to dance, the House will go it alone. The thinking is that, when the Constitution speaks of three-fourths of Congress, it means three-fourths of the sum of the number of senators and representatives, even if the Senate does not participate. This is beautiful in its simplicity. But it does not explain how the House alone can propose the revision when that task has been given by the Constitution to a bicameral Congress. Thus, I cannot believe that those espousing this argument really believe what they are saying—unless they have been mesmerized by the leading non-lawyers in the House or in Malacañang.

Second is the threatened resuscitation of Pirma, which has long been dead and buried. Do the pro-revision advocates think that after the change in leadership in the Supreme Court, it will be possible to reverse the decision of 1997? It was Chief Justice Hilario Davide, after all, who penned the 1997 decision which prohibited the Commission on Elections from entertaining "initiative and referendum" for amending the Constitution. Those who think that the decision will be reversed after Davide retires do injustice to the current justices.

The 1997 decision said that "the Comelec should be permanently enjoined from entertaining or taking cognizance of any petition for initiative on amendments to the Constitution until a sufficient law shall have been validly enacted to provide for the implementation of the system." In all fairness, the decision concluded: "We feel, however, that the system of initiative to propose amendments to the Constitution should no longer be kept in the cold; it should be given flesh and blood, energy and strength. Congress should not tarry any longer in complying with the constitutional mandate to provide for the implementation of the right of the people under that system."

It is now almost 10 years since the promulgation of that decision, but to date no law has been passed to give "flesh and blood, energy and strength" to the constitutional provision on initiative and referendum.

Let us suppose, however, that Congress succeeds in accomplishing the unlikely feat of passing a new initiative and referendum law within the next six months. Will such a feat serve the purposes of those who wish to mobilize the electorate for achieving a switch to a parliamentary and federal system? It definitely will not; but this is the consummation that is devoutly desired.

Initiative and referendum will not achieve the goal longed for by the advocates of change. What these advocates want is a switch from a presidential to a parliamentary form of government, and from a unitary to a federal system. In addition, they also want a unicameral legislature. These cannot be achieved by initiative and referendum. Initiative and referendum can accomplish amendments, but not revision. However, the goals they pine for all amount to revision.

An amendment envisages an alteration of one or a few specific and separable provisions. The guiding original intention of an amendment is to improve specific parts or to add new provisions deemed necessary to meet new conditions, or to suppress specific portions that may have become obsolete or that are judged to be dangerous. In revision, however, the guiding intention and plan contemplate a reexamination of the entire document or provisions of the document, which have overall implications for the entire document, to determine how and to what extent they should be altered. Such are the switches from presidential to primary, from unitary to federal, and from bicameral to unicameral.

Why has the Constitution limited the scope of initiative and referendum to simple amendments? The reason for this is clear enough. It would be practically impossible to conduct an overall review of the Constitution through the action of the entire electoral population. Revision can rationally be done only by a deliberative body convened for that purpose.

The introduction of the provision on amendment by initiative and referendum was an attempt to constitutionalize the significance of direct action of the people, as dramatically exemplified in the February 1986 event. It is meant to be an application of the "democratic" concept embodied in Article II, Sect. 1. But it was introduced with a clear understanding of the problems of practicality.

This was clear in the minds of the commissioners who drafted the provision. As the Record of the Constitutional Commission says, "The committee members felt that this system of initiative should be limited to amendments to the Constitution and should not extend to the revision of the entire Constitution."

Should both the constituent assembly and the initiative-referendum fail, what would the Chacha advocates think of next?

The relative unimportance of global warming

COMMENTARY

Bjorn Lomborg

GLOBAL WARMING HAS BECOME THE PREEMINENT concern of our time. Many governments and most campaigners tell us that dealing with global warming should be our first priority. Negotiating a follow-up treaty to the Kyoto Protocol, they argue, requires that we seek even deeper cuts in the pollution that causes global warming.

But they are wrong about our priorities, and they are advocating an inefficient remedy. As a result, we risk losing sight of tackling the world's most important problems first, as well as missing the best long-term approach to global warming.

To be sure, global warming is real, and it is caused by CO2. The trouble is that today's best climate models show that immediate action will do little good. The Kyoto Protocol will cut CO2 emissions from industrialized countries by 30 percent below what it would have been in 2010, and by 50 percent in 2050. Yet, even if everyone (including the United States) lived up to the protocol's rules, and stuck to them throughout the century, the change would be almost immeasurable—postponing warming for just six years in 2100.

Likewise, the economic models tell us that the cost would be substantial—at least $150 billion a year. In comparison, the United Nations estimates that half that amount could permanently solve all of the world's major problems: it could ensure clean drinking water, sanitation, basic health care and education for every single person in the world, now.

Global warming will mainly harm developing countries, because they are poorer and therefore more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. However, even the UN's most pessimistic forecasts project that by 2100 the average person in developing countries will be richer than the average person in developed countries is now.

So, early action on global warming is basically a costly way of doing very little for much richer people far in the future. We need to ask ourselves if this should, in fact, be our first priority.

Of course, in the best of all worlds, we would not need to prioritize. We could do all good things. We would have enough resources to win the war against hunger, end conflicts, stop communicable diseases, provide clean drinking water, broaden educational access and halt climate change. But we don't. So we have to ask the hard question: if we can't do it all, what should we do first?

Some of the world's top economists—including four Nobel laureates—answered this question at the Copenhagen Consensus in 2004, listing all major policies for improving the world according to priority. They found that HIV/AIDS, hunger, free trade and malaria were the world's top priority concerns. These were problems on which we could do the most good for our money.

On the other hand, the experts rated immediate responses to climate change at the bottom of the world's priorities. Indeed, the panel called these ventures—including the Kyoto Protocol—"bad projects," simply because they cost more than the good that they do.

The Copenhagen Consensus gives us great hope because it shows us that there are so many good things that we can do. For $27 billion, we could prevent 28 million people from getting HIV. For $12 billion, we could cut malaria cases by more than a billion a year. Instead of helping richer people inefficiently far into the future, we can do immense good right now.

This does not mean losing sight of the need to tackle climate change. But the Kyoto approach focuses on early cuts, which are expensive and do little good. Instead, we should be concentrating on investments in making energy without CO2 emissions viable for our descendants. This would be much cheaper and ultimately much more effective in dealing with global warming. The United States and United Kingdom have begun to tout this message.

We should rule out more Kyoto-style immediate cuts, which would be prohibitively expensive, do little good and cause many nations to abandon the entire process. Rather, they should suggest a treaty binding every nation to spend, say, 0.1 percent of GDP on research and development of non-carbon-emitting energy technologies.

This approach would be five times cheaper than the Kyoto measures and many more times cheaper than a Kyoto II. It would involve all nations, with richer nations naturally paying the larger share, and perhaps developing nations being phased in. It would let each country focus on its own future vision of energy needs, whether that means concentrating on renewable sources, nuclear energy, fusion, carbon storage, or searching for new and more exotic opportunities.

Such a massive global research effort would also have potentially huge innovation spin-offs. In the long run, such actions are likely to make a much greater impact on global warming than Kyoto-style responses.

In a world with limited resources, where we struggle to solve just some of the challenges that we face, caring more about some issues means caring less about others. We have a moral obligation to do the most good that we possibly can with what we spend, so we must focus our resources where we can accomplish the most first.

By this standard, global warming doesn't come close. Rather than investing hundreds of billions of dollars in short-term, ineffective cuts in CO2 emissions, we should be investing tens of billions of dollars in research, leaving our children and grandchildren with cheaper and cleaner energy.

Project Syndicate

Bjorn Lomborg is the organizer of Copenhagen Consensus, adjunct professor at the Copenhagen Business School and author of "Global Crises, Global Solutions" and "The Skeptical Environmentalist."

Fight and win

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

IN 1867, THE 9TH MARQUESS OF QUEENSBERRY, John Sholto Douglas, endorsed a set of boxing rules written two years before by John Graham Chambers. These rules have governed professional boxing ever since, under the philosophy that "you must not fight simply to win; no holds barred is not the way; you must win by the rules" (hence, the technical knockout, and points, as a means of winning). Real life matches and generations of Hollywood films have made us familiar with what boxing sportsmanship is supposed to include: three rounds with a one-minute interval between rounds; no wrestling or hugging; if a player falls, the count to 10 while the opponent retreats to his corner; no hitting when someone is on the ropes; standardized gloves; and the referee.

Chambers' rules for boxing as endorsed by a nutty aristocrat were the latest, and so far, most successful attempt, to impose limits to a sport beloved by the English, who are famous, even notorious, for their willingness to bet on anything. Wager on something, and the odds are almost unbeatable that someone will come along to try to fix the odds firmly in his favor.

Thank God for the rules then—and the referees, though they can be just as disappointingly selfish, too. It is the rules, artificial and arbitrary though they may be, that turn sports into community activities and not just a contest between individuals: they are the "constitution" most people understand and live by, at least for the duration of a game. The rules are a social contract, between players, between the players and the referees and those watching what's going on in the ring.

The concept of it—not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game—has come to apply to all professional sports. It is the ideal, though quite different from reality. The truth is, in sports, there are winners and losers, and no one likes losing, not just in sports, but in life. There are those who complain that the big money, fame and national prestige associated with both professional sports, and supposedly "amateur" international sporting events, are what detract from the real meaning of sports. Players, trainers, coaches, managers and so on, cheat in order to win the prizes, keep the purses, break records and make the country No. 1. It seems obvious enough that even if you took away the money, the fans, the people with influence and the national pride, you'd still run the risk that whenever two players are pitted against each other, there's a chance one of them will want to take some sort of illegal shortcut to victory.

What is remarkable is how a sport like boxing, thanks to the rules, has become equally a match of brainpower and tactics (though in the process it destroys the brain), and no longer a battle to the death. Even more remarkable, as I've pointed out, is how its modern spirit has affected all other sports—and how rules devised in Britain have become so widely accepted all over the world. The rules for boxing are on the level of a major cultural achievement. After ancient Olympic times and the days of the Roman gladiators, were there sports heroes before the Queensbury rules? Apparently few, even if you include jousting knights. But with the rise of the modern masses (from whose ranks come the boxers) who have turned a sport once frowned upon by the genteel into a sport adored by billions, the modern rules for boxing have given the world the "hero-as-athlete."

This most brutal and primal of sports is well loved by Filipinos, and we have produced a long line of boxing heroes, from prewar's Pancho Villa and Ceferino Garcia, to postwar's Flash Elorde and today's Manny Pacquiao and his brother. We may never produce a super heavyweight contender, but we have had our share of national glory with junior lightweights (like Elorde) and super featherweights (like Pacquiao). Just the other day, in the Southeast Asian Games, our male and female boxers successfully pursued a grudge match against the Thais—they ran off with seven gold medals in the 2003 games—garnering eight gold medals.

Roy Luarca of the INQUIRER reported that the match between middleweight Reynaldo Galido and Thailand's Olympic bronze medalist Suriya Prasathinpimai, "was stopped after the first round," when "Jeering fans pelted the ring with coins, plastic bottles and food in protest of the scoring, forcing the referee to stop the fight and declare Suriya the winner." This, among other things, means the grudge match will move on to the next round in Bangkok, where the Thai Prime Minister ("the Raul Gonzalez of Thailand," as a recent INQUIRER editorial described him) has promised the SEA Games will be "fair." This can only mean, as legions of Filipino boxing aficionados will tell you, that our boxers are in for a really hard slog against, shall we say, increased odds.

Still, Thaksin's determination to win at all costs aside, something has to be said for the Filipino love for boxing, which I think is a good thing compared to, say, the Filipino obsession with basketball. This is a highly biased opinion: Basketball seems to bring out the worst in us. I grew up at a time when the king of the court was Robert Jaworski, and all I can remember are the allegations he preferred winning over the fine points of the game. I haven't heard of such callousness on the part of our boxers, and this speaks highly of them and their fans. But we still have to go far: where is the great Filipino boxing movie to thrill and touch people? Where is our "Million Dollar Baby," our "Cinderella Man," "Raging Bull" and "On The Waterfront"? The boxers are waiting at the altar, in a sense, for the directors to march up the aisle. The headlines fade, but this celluloid lives on.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog

The 'land mines' of Rene Jarque

COMMENTARY

Soliman M. Santos Jr.

RETIRED PHILIPPINE ARMY (PA) Capt. Jose Rene N. Jarque died at 40, in the prime of life, with so much yet to give to family and country. It is especially sad when the good die young.

Rene was a man, a Filipino soldier, ahead of his time. (Ironically he died well before his time.) But what he started and worked on is showing signs of living on—not just of being remembered but of being carried out.

Most people who knew Rene would for the most part remember him for his advocacy of "Reforming the Armed Forces." And rightly so. But Rene had another special contribution as a Filipino soldier that, perhaps, very few knew about but which should be part of the credit we must give him as we mourn his passing. This was his contribution to the AFP—and consequently government—policy that eventually fed into a ground-breaking international humanitarian ban on anti-personnel land mines (Ottawa Treaty) in October 1997. This in turn led to the conferment in December 1997 of the Nobel Peace Prize on the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), in recognition of the significance of that humanitarian ban and the process which led to it. Rene was part of this process.

On Feb. 7 1996, Rene, still with the military, prepared a paper on "Landmines in the Philippines" for the Strategic Studies Division, Office of Strategic and Special Studies, AFP. This paper was then carried by then Col. Alfonso Dagudag, chief of staff, 7th Infantry Division, PA to the Meeting of Experts on the Military Use and Effectiveness of Anti-Personnel Mines held on Feb. 12-13, 1996 in Geneva, Switzerland sponsored by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The most important conclusion of this meeting was that the military utility of anti-personnel mines cannot outweigh the grave humanitarian, socio-economic and environmental consequences of their use. This was the first of several such expert meetings sponsored by the ICRC.

It is now acknowledged that these unofficial or semi-official "Track Two" meetings (as distinguished from official diplomatic "Track One" meetings) contributed to the momentum and political will of the Ottawa process leading to the treaty. In fact, this process created a new model of diplomacy anchored on the close partnership between like-minded pro-ban governments (the Philippines included) led by Canada and an array of humanitarian and anti-land mine NGOs and international organizations, like ICBL and ICRC. The partnership formed the basis of a "new kind of superpower" in the unipolar world of one preeminent superpower.

Rene may have helped prefigure the Philippine practice of this new model of diplomacy when his own expert/policy paper "Landmines in the Philippines" quoted favorably a "Proposed Philippine Position" which had been earlier presented by the non-governmental Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines (PCBL). Among the recommended Philippine positions then were: (1) an international ban on the use, production, stockpiling and sale, transfer or export of anti-personnel mines; (2) extension of the scope of the existing protocol on mines to apply also to internal armed conflicts; and (3) institutionalization of NGO participation.

Ten years hence, all these have come to pass at both international and national levels. As early as December 1995, then President Ramos issued a policy statement which included a dramatic call to the AFP to disarm and safely dispose without delay some 2,460 claymore mines still in its inventory. In January 1998, President Ramos issued his Instrument of Ratification of the 1997 Ottawa Treaty. Eventually, in January 2000, the Senate issued its Resolution of Concurrence to confirm the ratification. Since February 2000, the Philippines has been a party to the treaty.

Rene at least lived to see these happen in his time—even if the same may not be said for the armed forces reforms which was his main passion. In more recent years, he would tell me how he somehow rued Ramos' order for the AFP to dispose of its claymore mines, which are anti-personnel mines, but not necessarily banned by the Ottawa Treaty if they are used in command-detonated mode, i.e. if they are not victim-activated. Claymore mines by their design can be used either way, command-detonated or victim-activated.

The New People's Army, to its credit, knows this international humanitarian norm very well. Field accounts show extensive NPA use of command-detonated improvised claymore mines as part of ambush tactics. This notwithstanding, the AFP, to its credit also, has so far not reversed the policy against its use of claymore mines, even though it could still legally do so in command-detonated mode, say for perimeter defense of small detachments.

Sometimes, giving up the use of a certain weapon is repaid in the form of higher moral ground. Perhaps, just as important as the substantive achievement of a humanitarian ban on anti-personnel mines was Rene's example of a Filipino soldier (and later ex-soldier) reaching out to the "usual suspects" on the NGO front like us in the PCBL. Later, he himself would form or join advocacy NGOs, like the Actions Against Tyranny and Corruption Now (ACT NOW) and Initiatives for Peace-Mindanao (InPeace Mindanao), characterized as "Left-leaning." But it is precisely this kind of reaching out—from both sides now—that is needed for the peace, unification and reconciliation of this country.

I think Rene presages a coming effort at more genuine dialogue between Filipino soldiers, on one hand, and peace advocates, human rights activists and humanitarian workers, on the other. And there is something about a soldier (or ex-soldier) as a peacemaker that seemingly, if ironically, makes his peacemaking more effective than usual. Maybe part of it is the trust reposed by his own comrades-in-arms, warriors being asked to take a leap of faith into peace.

One of the best possible tributes to Rene would be the emergence in due time of an honest-to-goodness advocacy network on security sector reform, one of the few advocacy issues not yet really touched enough by Filipino NGOs. And our security sector reformers will definitely derive some guidance from Rene's writings on the subject. His widow Gay has preserved Rene's articles and shares them with others as he did when he was alive. He had the gift of writing, and the thing with writing is that it can go a long way—as we know, even beyond death—in achieving good.

I believe we have not heard or read "the last word" from Rene. No, we haven't heard the last of Rene Jarque. Because there are bound to be other Rene Jarques.

Soliman M. Santos Jr. is coordinator of the Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines.

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Unaccountable

THERE'S A SAYING THAT FOR the blind it is easier to see than it is for those who have eyes but don't want to see.

This is the main problem of Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales. He wants us to ignore a crime and "leave the judgment to the Lord." (PDI, 11/25/05)

That is plain preposterous. The bishop is in fact telling us that we should not prosecute those who commit criminal acts and leave it to God and in His time. We should abolish the whole judicial arm of the government if that is the case.

Bishop Rosales' idea of ignoring the evil will not save the community; rather, it gives us the notion that we shouldn't be accountable in this world.

The Church should serve as the shepherd of the people. As the shepherd, it shouldn't let outside forces corrupt them. It should enlighten them instead so they can properly discern based on their conscience.

—RYAN FRANCO,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

It doesn't make sense

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE Nov. 13 column of Randy David titled, "The return of the repressed." I don't know where to start a rebuttal to what can and should be seen only as a misguided, bitter "*talumpating bumabatikos.*"

Why would a country want a regular ambassador from one "that for generations controlled (the) national psyche"? Doesn't make sense, does it? And "US assistance was drastically slashed." Think: you throw somebody out of your house, don't expect him to help with next month's grocery bill. Then to call the Visiting Forces Agreement a "betrayal" or a "legal cover" belittles diplomacy in the Philippines, not the United States, where all visitors are welcome.

When I was back home in New York recently, there was a particularly ugly crime by a Filipino who raped, killed then entombed in cement his Puerto Rican ex-girlfriend. But there were no ranting forums in the press, no public outcry—it was a crime, and he'll be punished, as will the Marines in Subic.

S—t happens, it's a matter of fact, no more, no less, no need to politicize it. To paraphrase David's own words, the perniciousness of American power is symptomatic of the trepidation reared only by his own American phobia.

—CLIFF MICHELENA,
c/o Nodesca Solis Subd.,
Koronadal, South Cotabato

A disease worse than bird flu pandemic

WE NEVER WONDER WHY MOST Filipinos do not seem to make a big deal out of the bird flu scare, or SARS, meningococcemia, or even that killer dengue that strikes us year after year. The reason is simple: We have been immune to some of the most dangerous diseases and pandemics that breed in the very core of the moldy political system in our country. The most malignant among them are political and economic in nature.

Though the neighboring countries have their own share of political turmoils and economic crises, what ails us today is a classic example of a chronic disease in political leadership. Worst of all, today, that virus comes from the breath of a President whose tenure betrayed the form of democracy that installed her in power.

Understandably, the bird flu scare hovering over Asian countries is of little significance in our country. The way we continue to suffer with having a President like Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is symptomatic of that malady.

The glaring fact is, we worry more about what to put on our table for the next meal than about a bird flu pandemic. We have learned from experience that pandemics like bird flu are less worrying than the surging prices of oil and other basic commodities because of Gloria's EVAT.

They're less burdensome than the corruption in government, whose stink pretty much seems to be coming nowadays from a family currently occupying Malacañang. They're less alarming than having a government indifferent to the rape of a Filipina by "visiting" foreign troops. They're less worrying than having a President whose legitimacy is questionable. They're less disturbing than having a President who attempts to curtail press freedom and the right to public assembly. They're less frightening than the blatant political repression and curtailment of civil liberties. They're less menacing than the series of politically related killings of journalists, activists and individuals who look like dissidents in the eyes of the government. They're less disquieting than having this country under the rule of a President who kills democracy both in the sweetest and bitterest fashion.

The real disease we want to eradicate is the Arroyo administration which feeds us nothing but destructive mining operations in our ancestral territories, anti-indigenous laws, policies, projects and programs—like the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act, National Integrated Protected Areas System and others—that only seek to divide us and uproot us from our land. The Arroyo administration has also a record of a vicious and relentless militarization campaign that has cost our communities many lives, not unlike a pandemic.

—HIMPAD MANGUMALAS,
Solidarity of Indigenous Peoples and Advocates for Gloria's Ouster (Sipa-Gloria),
48-A Mapagbigay St.,
Barangay Pinyahan,
Diliman, Quezon City

Lying has now become a lucrative industry

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY IS VERY ILL. Its ailment is chronic lying. But note this: Once a person tells a lie, he is no longer believed when he tells the truth. It is a sin to tell a lie, but as it is now, this moral lesson has been totally cast aside.

The fact is, telling a lie nowadays is a very lucrative industry. Many people are making a fortune out of lying: a congressman can earn a million by voting "no" to impeachment; another can get a promotion or a high-paying government job; or one can even become president.

All this brings to mind the adage that says: "He who lies with dogs rises with fleas." Proverb 17:4 states: "The wicked enjoy fellowship with others who are wicked; liars enjoy lies." The allurement of fortune seems unstoppable. Unless the chronic ailment is successfully eliminated in one way or the other, without using arms, this country that we ought to be proud of will surely go down in ignominy, lying in dregs with the worst countries of the world.

I suggest two ways by which we can arrest our country's rapid downslide. The first is: Application of the "S-R Theory." This theory says that to cause action, there must be a stimulus. Without the stimulus, there will be no reaction. In this case, the stimulus is the alleged illegal President. If she is removed, nobody will be forced to tell lies.

To reinforce the S-R theory, the principle of sublimation should be applied. "Sublimation" means to make the unacceptable response (tell a lie) sublime—tell the truth.

Education is change for the better. If the theory and principle described above were applied consistently, this country would be transformed from a country of liars to one of truthful people.

—PEDRO G. ORILLE,
president,
Agoo Senior Citizens Association,
Senior Citizens Center,
Rizal Park Compound,
Agoo, La Union

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What makes a hero

THIS REFERS TO THE LETTER TITLED, "WHO is the true hero?" (PDI, 11/23/05) from Arnold Van Vugt, questioning the recent enshrinement—by the Ateneo de Manila University and Alumni—of Jesuit priest and PDSP (Partido Demokratiko-Sosyalista ng Pilipinas) cofounder Romeo J. Intengan, S.J. as a hero, even "before (he) has given up (his) life."

Van Vugt also noted the "conspicuous absence" of Ed Jopson from the list of new Ateneo honorees and he suggested that Father Intengan should have instead offered his place to Jopson.

First, it is not true that Ateneo has ignored the heroism of Jopson. The latter was enshrined in the Ateneo Heroes Hall in 1996, together with 14 other Ateneans, including Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

Second, one need not be dead before he or she can be considered a hero. Nelson Mandela of South Africa and Xanana Gusmao of East Timor are still living, but both are considered by many as heroes. It is not one's death, however brutal it may be, but one's life—how selflessly it is lived or how great the sacrifices made in the pursuit of some ideals—that makes a person a hero.

To the Ateneo community and to us, his comrades in the social democratic movement, Father Intengan is a living hero. His inclusion in the list of Ateneo honorees this year is a recognition of his undaunted resistance to martial law; and of his continuous involvement in the defense and promotion of democracy and in the advocacy of an alternative societal model for the Philippines.

In receiving the honor conferred on him, Father Intengan offered it to "the many who devotedly served our country, our people and our democracy in times of danger and difficulty during our history."

—AGAPITO M. LUGAY,
head, Public Information Department,
Partido Demokratiko-Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (PDSP), 4-A Maalindog St., UP Village, QC

Humane death for unwanted animals

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE INQUIRER for publishing the article "Dog pounds resort to euthanasia to control stray dog population," by Marlet Salazar. (PDI, 10/22/05)

Unwanted cats and dogs, at the very least, deserve a peaceful release from a world in which they are often abused and discarded. Death by injection of sodium pentobarbital is the only truly humane death. Death by gassing often takes 30 terrifying minutes, and a gunshot is haphazard and subject to human error.

Dr. Bubut Carlos is right: The best way to prevent the tragedies that result when there are too many animals and too few good homes is spaying and neutering. Spaying one cat can prevent 420,000 unwanted kittens in seven years, and spaying one dog can prevent 67,000 dogs in just six years.

We can drastically reduce the number of animals which end up in shelters by passing mandatory spaying/neutering laws. The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals offers free "Animal Angels" packs on improving animal shelters, with information on animal care, documenting cruelty, anti-cruelty laws and other resources at HelpingAnimals.com.

—SONIA G. ASTUDILLO,
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals,
SoniaA@PETAAsiaPacific.org

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Suspects in radioman's slay charged

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—THE SUSPECTED ASSASSIN OF RADIO reporter George Benaojan has been identified and will be charged today before the Talisay City Prosecutor's Office for murder and frustrated murder along with three other unidentified suspects—the lookout, the taxi driver and the mastermind.

Cebu Provincial Police Office director Supt. Vicente Loot said the frustrated murder charge would stem from the fact that a bystander was slightly wounded in the chest when Benaojan was attacked.

Benaojan was outside his store at the South Central Market in Barangay Lawaan 3, Talisay City, 12 km south of Cebu City, when he was shot four times by a lone gunman at 9:30 p.m. Thursday. He died three hours later at Chong Hua Hospital in Cebu City.

The gunman is known for accepting "cheap contracts to kill," according to the police.

This information prompted police authorities here to believe that whoever was responsible for having him killed, could not be some big time crook with an axe to grind against the broadcaster.

Still, while the police could not determine yet the motive for the killing, Loot believed that it could be work-related.

However, he said the police could not conclude if it was related to his reportage of the goings-on at the Bureau of Customs, Benaojan's main beat as senior reporter of radio station dyDD Bantay Radyo at the time of his death on Thursday.

"We found out that the gunman accepts small contracts… *baratohon lang ba* (he is cheap)," Loot said.

Benaojan's gunman was positively identified by Adriano "Jammy" Llanos through the photograph shown to the witness. Llanos, a volunteer broadcaster of dyDD and a friend of the slain broadcaster, was with Benaojan when the latter was gunned down.

Loot said the name of the gunman will be released to the media today.

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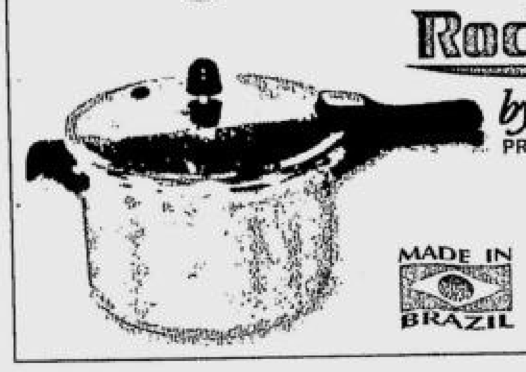

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120 C. Visayas firms don't pay minimum wage

DUMAGUETE CITY—SOME 120 ESTABLISHMENTS in Central Visayas were found to have not complied with the minimum wage law, according to the Department of Labor and Employment in Central Visayas (DOLE-7).

DOLE-7 assistant director Elias Cayanong said they were preparing the order to compel these firms to comply with the wage law.

About 60 percent of these establishments were in Cebu, he added.

Last June, the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) in Central Visayas adjusted the daily minimum wage of workers in the private sector by P15 for those in Metro Cebu and P12 for others in the rest of the region—Cebu province, Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor.

This means that minimum wage for workers in Metro Cebu has been adjusted to P223 and P198 to P210 for those outside Metro Cebu but within Cebu mainland.

For Bohol and Negros Oriental, the minimum wage has been increased to P200 and P190 for those in Siquijor and the islands of Bantayan and Camotes in Cebu.

Cayanong said the DOLE regional office conducted an inspection two months after the implementation of the new wage order to determine the compliance. *Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ARMM can't give non-wage benefit to workers

COTABATO CITY—THE AUTONOMOUS REGION in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) cannot fully grant the non-wage workers' benefits package that President Macapagal-Arroyo wants implemented amid growing protests against the expanded value-added tax law, officials said.

Prof. Abdul Gani Cadir, assistant secretary of the ARMM's Department of Labor and Employment, recently said it was not within the powers and resources of the regional government to implement two of the three non-wage benefits mentioned in the recent Presidential directive.

The so-called non-wage benefit package includes tax exemption for workers earning a gross monthly income of P18,000 or less; easy access to subsidized rolling stores and designated retail outlets of basic commodities; and easy financial access through microfinance loan assistance.

Ms Arroyo said the non-wage benefit package for workers would be in lieu of a legislated wage hike.

Malacañang earlier wanted Congress to pass a legislated wage act.

ARMM Gov. Zaldy Uy Ampatuan has directed regional officials to come up with recommendations on the non-wage benefits package for the region's workers.

But he pointed out that the Department of Finance, whose powers and functions are not devolved to ARMM, has a clearer mandate over income tax measures.

The Office of the Regional Treasurer said that aside from real property taxes, it only collects fees for the use of the region's infrastructure facilities like airports, seaports, terminals and wharves.

Cadir said only the third component can actually be implemented by the DOLE in the region.

But, he said, unlike the DOLE national office and its administrative regional offices, DOLE-ARMM does not have separate funding for soft loans and microfinance programs to lend to needy ARMM workers.

Kitem Kadatuan, Maguindanao NFA provincial manager, said the agency's rolling stores and stationary retailers of basic commodities at subsidized prices have enough supplies of well-milled rice, canned goods, soy sauce, cooking oil, packed sugar and coffee, as well as noodles and eggs to last until Christmas season. *Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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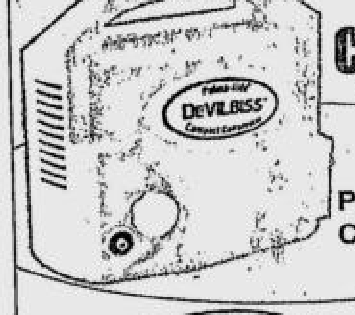

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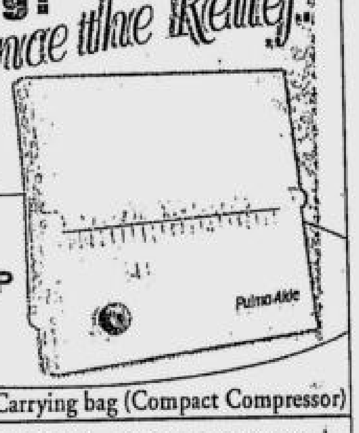

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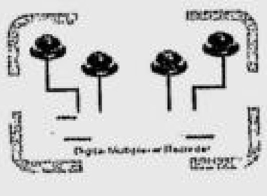

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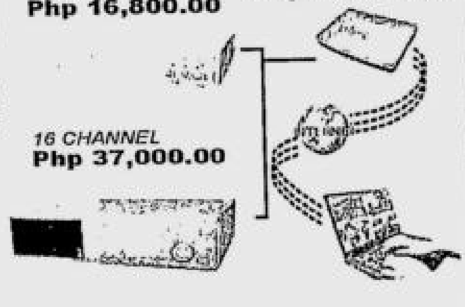

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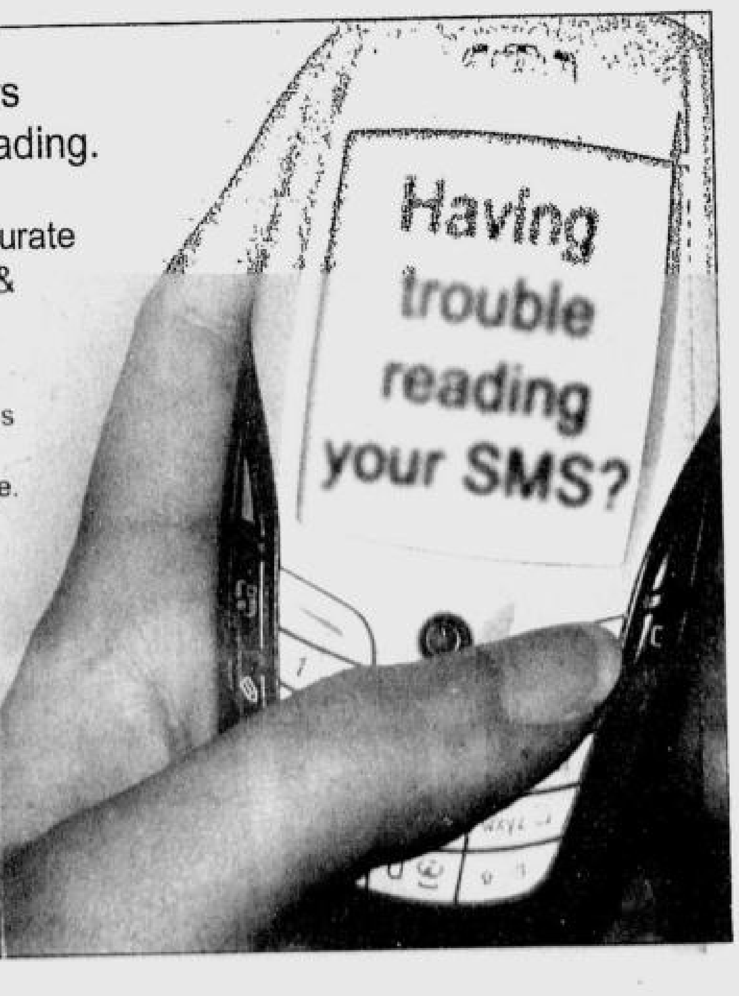

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A YEAR AFTER TRAGEDY

Quezon survivors still wait for gov't promise

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

REAL, QUEZON—ONE YEAR AFter the survivors of the Repador building here collapsed at the height of several typhoons last December, the government has yet to honor its promise of providing them livelihood and housing assistance.

"We were promised livelihood and house and lot assistance but after a year, we're still waiting," Modesto Manuguid, 15, told the INQUIRER.

Another survivor, Maria Tamares, 50, also waits for the government's promise of financial assistance supposedly as a reward for their courageous display of human spirit.

"They promised us financial assistance but until now, we have not yet received anything except the P10,000 that President Arroyo gave us when she visited us in the hospital," said Maria, dressed up in jeans and colorful striped shirt, with dangling silver earrings and manicured nails.

Second life

"This is the birth of my second life so I dressed up for the occasion," she said.

Melvin Sur, the father of 4-year-old survivor Stella Marie Sur, recalled the hospital visit of Cito Lorenzo, then chair of Land Bank of the Philippines.

"He promised us cash and housing assistance but sad to say, the promise has remained just a promise," he said.

Stella Marie was found playing with her friends in a shallow canal of flowing clear water at the back of their house, unmindful that a year ago, her guardian angel miraculously protected and saved her from death.

Maria, Modesto, Stella Marie and Ian Carl Bungag surprised the whole world when they came out alive after 10 days of being buried in a cramped vacant space about a meter high under the rubble of concrete, steel and mud and the stench of rotting flesh in the collapsed Repador building in Barangay Tignoan.

They survived the ordeal by drinking the dripping water they had collected in a plastic basin.

At the height of the storm on the evening of Nov. 29 last year, more than a hundred villagers sought shelter inside the two-storey Repador building, thinking it could protect them from the swelling flood.

Buried

But an avalanche of mud and water from the hilly portion across the road knocked the two-story structure down and buried all the refugee-occupants.

The four survivors were saved by a group of rescuers in the morning of Dec. 9.

President Arroyo called the dramatic rescue a "miracle." She immediately rushed to the Quezon Memorial Hospital and paid the survivors a surprise visit.

The President promised them that the government would shoulder all their expenses and provide additional financial aid.

When the Inquirer visited the village on Nov. 29, one year after the tragedy, the atmosphere was like a fiesta.

DELFIN MALLARI JR./PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

VILLAGE CHILDREN play at the former site of Repador Building that collapsed last year, with the wooden crosses in the mass graveyard serving as memorial for the more than 100 landslide victims.

The victims' families held the traditional Filipino "babang-luksa" (end of year-long mourning) with all the relatives feasting on simple commemoration and wine drinking.

The makeshift graves in different parts of the village and the one facing the Pacific Ocean, marked with several wooden crosses and covered with beach sand, were lighted with candles and adorned with fresh flower offerings.

Modesto said the P20,000 payment from the television producer that made their horrible experience into a film was used by his parents in returning to Bicol.

Left

He was left in the care of his elder brother.

"I used the P5,000 they gave me to buy personal things," said Modesto, who was spotted by this correspondent walking around with his friends along the road.

Ian Carl was also wandering with his own friends in some parts of the village.

Maria led the INQUIRER to the graves of her daughter Catherine and grandson John Marvin at the base of the hill across the road.

The two were among the more than 100 villagers who perished in the avalanche of deadly mud and rampaging water.

"We have now fully recovered from that near-death experience. Thanks to God," Maria said.

The survivors said heavy rains still made them nervous. "I utter prayers to calm me down," Maria said.

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Small Lanao town best in solid waste management

OZAMIZ CITY—LINAMON IS JUST A tiny town in Lanao del Norte but it prides itself as having the best solid waste management in the country.

Recently, the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) named the Linamon government as a model local government unit in ecological solid waste management.

In a plaque of recognition handed to Mayor Cherlito Macas, the LMP acknowledged the town's feat as a "rare achievement" that makes it "a prime example" of a local government that lives up to the mandates of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

Five years ago, the town was infamous for its mounts of trash near roadsides, especially along the national highway where traders from the hinterlands create a busy flea market during the day.

It took days before the garbage was collected.

In 2002, the local government launched its Basura Atras, Linamon Abante sa Kalambuan (Balak) program, which was aimed at turning waste management as a barometer of its capacity to achieve development goals for the 2,000-hectare town of 16,000 people.

In two years, the local government was able to establish the social infrastructure for effective solid waste disposal, with each household maintaining segregation boxes for varying types of trash.

The unsightly "garbage mountains" along the highway disappeared.

Because of these achievements, Linamon has become some sort of a laboratory for ecological solid waste management practices for other local governments.

To date, 311 missions sent by local governments from around the country have visited the town to learn lessons from its experience.

Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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PAMPANGA FESTIVAL

Yes, 'sisig' is cooked in 176 ways

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—THE GIANT SISIG Festival staged for the third time by this Pampanga City on Saturday scored a culinary and gastronomic feat when it introduced 176 ways of cooking the much-loved, pre-colonial Kapampangan dish.

By 10 p.m. Saturday, three entries each from four professional chefs and 50 amateur cooks were displayed before more than 20,000 spectators who lined up to partake of the dish. They packed the almost two-hectare Nepo grounds as early as 6 p.m.

With a wide assortment of *sisig* to choose from, the 20 or so judges took more than two hours tasting and choosing the best bets.

The 176 preparations stood for the 176th founding anniversary of Angeles, which was carved out of the Pampanga capital of San Fernando.

TONETTE OREJAS/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

IT TOOK judges of the 3rd Giant Sisig Festival in Angeles City two hours to pick their best dishes from among 176 *sisig* varieties prepared by professional and amateur cooks on Saturday.

Variety

Aling Lucing's, which was established by "sisig queen" Lucita Cunanan in 1974, romped off with the first prize in the meat and seafood categories, through the creation of its chef William Calingcacion.

The judges took a strong liking for the classical *sisig*—boiled and chopped pig ears and cheeks seasoned with vinegar, calamansi juice, chopped onions and chicken liver.

In the meat category, Grand Palazzo Royale's *sisig ala pizzailo* or pizza prepared by Audrey Santos, grabbed the second prize. Red Crab's pork combination by Juanito Tongol Jr. placed third.

In the seafood category, Red Crab's *sisig tahong* (green mussels) and Grand Palazzo Royale's mixed seafood placed second and third, respectively.

The *sisig* also went exotic. Grand Palazzo Royale prepared the ostrich *sisig*; Aling Lucing's, green pasture (pork with a generous serving of green pepper); and Mila's Tokwa't Baboy, snails.

In the amateur competition, students, barangay nutrition scholars and day care workers applied the basic *sisig* seasoning (vinegar, lemons) on a variety of ingredients.

Jori Ann Canlas made *sisig* out of hotdogs and lechon while Efren Capid prepared his *sisig* using a cream sauce.

Roel Cabigting prepared duck meat *sisig* while Angelica Joy Sapnu and Chito Reyes used chicken parts in their dish.

The *bangus* (milkfish), shrimp and squid were not spared from the *sisig* touch by Marilyn Dalusung, Jeffrey Ayson and Nimfa Villanueva.

Vegetarians had reasons to be happy with the all-vegetable *sisig* featured in the event.

Villanueva, Joan Innocencio and Sandra Villanueva made *sisig* out of *ampalaya* (bitter gourd), eggplant and a host of other readily available vegetables in the local market.

The judges easily picked Mark Allen Dizon's *unagi* (eel) *sisig*, Beverly Garcia's frog *sisig* and Michael Vilaga's spicy python.

"It's [not the prize but] the joy of competing and being able to concoct other *sisig* dishes that are important," said Calingcacion.

From a pregnant woman's snack of unripe sour fruits in the olden days to a bar chow and family viand in recent decades, *sisig* has gone a long way, said Mayor Carmelo Lazatin.

Long way

Its ancient popularity among Kapampangan folk did not escape Spanish friar Diego Bergano when he wrote his 1732 work, Vocabulario de la Lengua Pampanga en Romance. A *mapanyisig* (somebody who loves to snack on sour food), Bergano wrote, ate the dish in a group.

The businesswoman in Cunanan veered away from the home-styled vinaigrette salad or cocktail snack by serving pig ears and cheeks in large quantities.

Cunanan virtually sustained the life of the *sisig* by making it popular. No drinking session or family dinner here is complete without the *sisig* and it became a centerpiece of local social functions.

The Sugay family's Sisig Benedict further popularized the *sisig* by giving it a new life and look through servings on hot, sizzling plates.

Over bottles of beer, soda or water, many young people huddled at the Nepo grounds here on Saturday, collectively eating *sisig* like in the olden times.

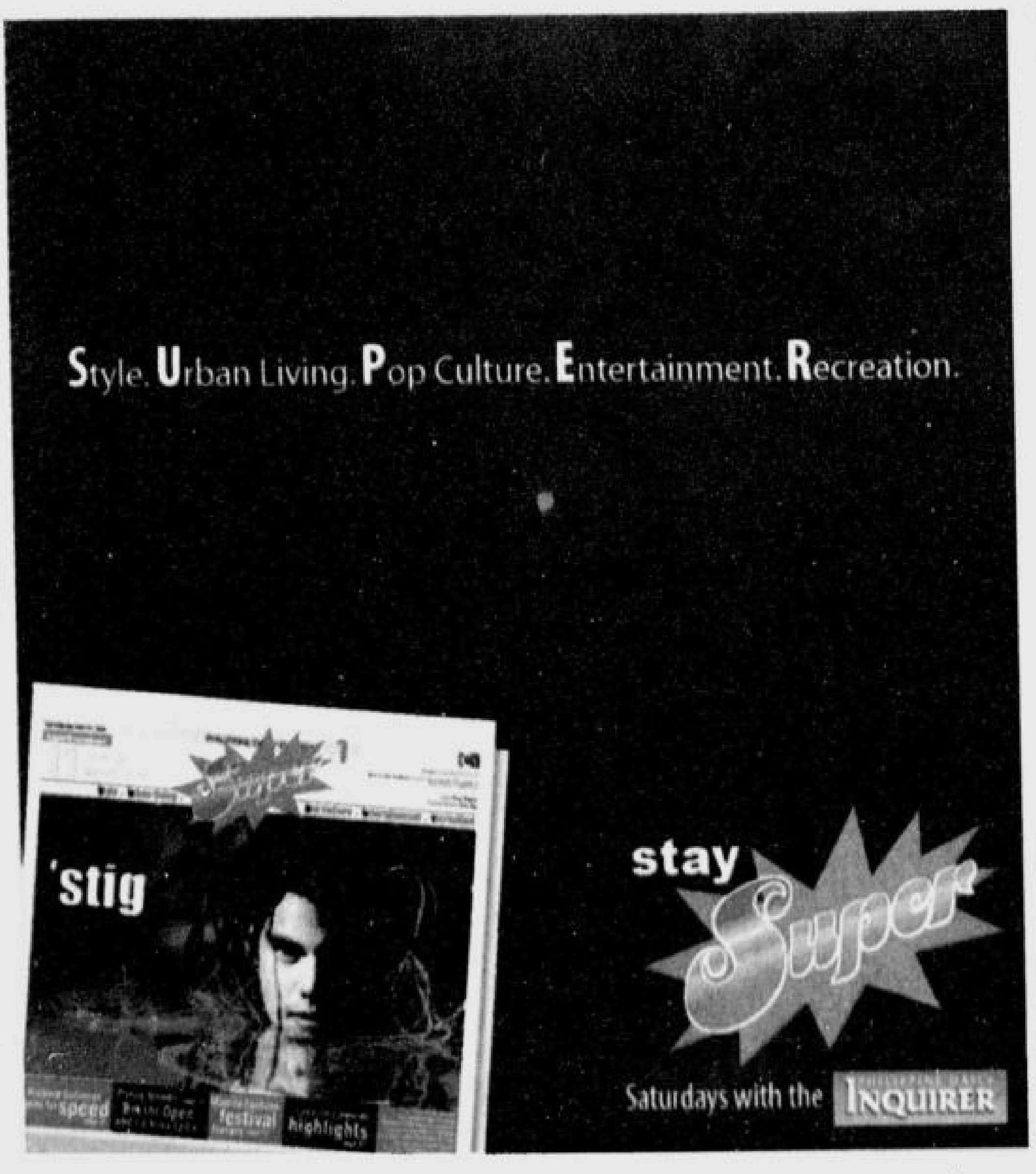
'Sin City'

Prostitution still exists in Angeles but its culinary reputation has fast gained fame. At least 200 restaurants serving local and international cuisine make up the city's culinary landscape.

Festival organizers displayed the giant aluminum *sisig* plate, measuring 16 feet by 32 feet and the festival's trademark, on another stage on Saturday.

The city government did not fill the giant plate with 600 kilograms of *sisig* to focus on the thrust of creating a variety of *sisig* dishes.

"Variety, that's the kind of life we in Angeles City live," Lazatin said to emphasize the diverse features of the people and enterprises in the city that was built by Don Angel Pantaleon de Miranda from a grassy clearing in 1829.



Style. Urban Living. Pop Culture. Entertainment. Recreation.
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Messages

My warmest greetings to the University of Santo Tomas as you host the International Congress on Bioethics '05 together with the Pontifical Academy for Life and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP). Your theme, "Celebrating the Gospel of Life: Basic Issues in Bioethics", demonstrates your firm conviction to protect the sanctity of life in consonance with the teachings of Christ.

By tackling bioethical issues in the light of the Gospel, you shed light into the meaning of God's Word and clarify its meaning among the faithful who believe in Him.

On this special occasion, I call on you to take on the challenge of enlightening the minds of Christians everywhere so that their relationship with God will be strengthened and enriched. I count on you to continue leading and inspiring lives grounded on faith in God and His Word so that our country will be blessed.

With God on our side, I am confident that we will beat the odds and secure bountiful life for our people.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

A concrete commitment to the right to life and the protection and promotion of every human being from the first instance of his existence until his natural death may be defined today as being a primary and universal emergency.

This commitment is required, in a positive sense, by the dignity of the human person, the highest value that exists in the world, a good at the summit of the universe made in the image of God.

This commitment is made urgent, sadly enough, by the enormous levels of the slaughter of so many innocents, which every year is far greater than the number of deaths caused by natural disasters.

To the threat of weapons of mass destruction and the frightening danger of terrorism are added the graver, more numerous and more silent deaths inflicted by abortion, euthanasia and the selective procreation of human beings.

No conscience, on whatever faith or philosophical thought it is based, can be insensitive to this and no man of upright feelings can remain indifferent.

(SGD.) BISHOP ELIO SGRECCIA, D.D.
President, Pontifical Academy for Life

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."
Jn. 10:10

On the occasion of the International Congress on Bioethics '05 hosted by the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, together with the Holy See's Pontifical Academy for Life and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines on 5-7 December 2005, I convey my warmest greeting and cordial esteem to all the speakers, delegates, and participants in this very important gathering of experts in the field of bioethics. I also extend my congratulations to the organizers and the collaborators for the great effort you have exerted in preparing for this event whose programmes will resonate far beyond its period.

Jesus Christ is our Life. This is the constant theme in his teaching and preaching ministry. He governs His flock because of the Life that He offers to all of us. In this lies our hope amidst the tyranny of subjectivism and the cruelty of assisted death. The world lives in its own comfort zone, but it is a world frightful of new life, as if it creates a discomfort. This gives rise to the culture of death that the late and Venerable Pope John Paul II has been warning us.

As we close the Eucharistic and Marian Year in the Philippines with our celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8 December, may this International Congress call to mind the great song of Mary, the Magnificat, which is her and our song of liberation from the slavery of sin and the oppression of death. May the light of Christ ever shine brightly in all of us, and may we let God work through us, so that He will be glorified in everything.

+ Antonio Franco
ARCHBISHOP ANTONIO FRANCO
Apostolic Nuncio

At the heart of Jesus' message is the Gospel of Life. Fullness of life is God's dream and desire for humanity. I have come that you may have life and have it to the full (Jn. 10:10). This invitation to share in the very life of God will reach full realization in eternity but has value and meaning in its earthly phase.

Ten years after Evangelium Vitae, there is an extraordinary increase and gravity of threats to life (EV, 3). While new frontiers are opened by scientific and technological progress, there are grave attacks to the dignity of the human person. In these circumstances, the Gospel of life must be proclaimed with dauntless fidelity.

Every human life is sacred, the Catechism of the Catholic Church declares, because the human person is will for his own sake in the image and likeness of the holy and living God (Cf. CCC, 2319).

The International Congress on Bioethics is a renewed invitation to protect, respect, serve and love human life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. I congratulate the organizers of the congress as I sincerely pray for the success of the gathering.

May God bless you always!

+ GAUDENCIO B. ROSALES, D.D.
Archbishop of Manila

We are witnesses to the fastest growing and interesting development in the field of science and technology, particularly on the field of biomedical technology. It offers a very significant promise that seems to be beyond belief. It reaches a certain maturity and success but at the same time has the tendency to reduce man to a mere biological being.

Today, we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of John Paul II's Evangelium Vitae. This is an opportunity for us to reflect on the basic biomedical issues presented by the late John Paul II. Amidst the prevailing culture of death, let us all together restore the very dignity of human life fashioned by our Creator.

Together with the Pontifical Academy for Life, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, Office on Bioethics, and the University of Santo Tomas, let me invite you to join us in the forthcoming International Congress on Bioethics '05. This will be held on December 5 to 7, 2005 at St. Thomas Aquinas Research Complex (TARC), University of Santo Tomas, Manila.

May the fruits of this important congress inspire us to defend and uphold life.

+JOSE F. OLIVEROS, D.D.
Bishop of Malolos
Chairman, CBCP Office on Bioethics

MABUHAY!

My sincerest felicitations to the University of Santo Tomas as you host the International Congress on Bioethics '05 together with the Pontifical Academy for Life and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) on December 5-7, 2005 at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex, UST with the theme, "Celebrating the Gospel of Life: Basic Issues in Bioethics".

As Father of the City, I warmly welcome all the participants to our proud capital city! May you take time to visit the recent renewal and development projects of the city government, foremost of which is the Manila Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard and the Avenida Pedestrian Walkway and Shopping Strip. These are products of the combined efforts of our people, now armed with a new confidence and belief that collectively, we could introduce meaningful changes in our City.

The City of Manila joins you in this endeavor as you gather together to share your views on issues concerning human life from a Christian and humanist perspective. Your efforts to deal with the bioethical concerns of humanity faces, in the light of the Gospel, is imperative. It is noteworthy that your theme embraces the publication of Pope John Paul II, who was a staunch advocate of the promulgation of the culture of life, a value we Filipinos hold dear.

Fullness of life can only be achieved if we continue to pursue development and more development in all corners of the City. A by-product of development is economic activity, which consequently, increases productivity for a greater number of our people.

We hope for the success of this worthy endeavor.

I am one with you in promoting the culture of life!

At sa patuloy na basbas ng Panginoon, magtatagumpay tayo! MABUHAY!

JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Mayor, City of Manila

The University of Santo Tomas takes great pride and pleasure in hosting the International Bioethics Congress 2005 in collaboration with the Pontifical Academy for Life and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines Office on Bioethics. We are truly grateful for this opportunity to gather in one occasion distinguished experts in the field of bioethics and to create this venue for discussion and reflection on life issues.

In behalf of the Thomasian community, I wish to extend my warmest welcome to the speakers, moderators, reactors, and delegates who have graciously accepted our invitation to participate in this endeavor. Your support to this Congress is a response in itself to the Church's advocacy for the defense of human life and human dignity.

In "celebrating the gospel of life" we also celebrate the great love God has for man because our life is the fruit of His love. This life given to us by the Creator finds its meaning in being a gift to others, a gift that demands a great responsibility from us who receive it. As we witness the progress of science and technology also leading towards ends contrary to the right to life, we are faced with the greater challenge and responsibility to preserve, nurture and defend life in all its forms from all attacks.

May this Congress inspire in us greater strength and courage to live up to this challenge and may it serve as a valuable chance for professional exchanges and a great learning experience for all of us.

Welcome to the University of Santo Tomas!

REV. FR. TAMERLANE R. LANA, O.P.
Rector, University of Santo Tomas

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON BIOETHICS '05

Celebrating the Gospel of Life: Basic Issues in Bioethics

opens today

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

MONDAY: December 05, 2005

MORNING SESSION
REGISTRATION
CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST
  Main Celebrant
  H.E. MOST REV. RICARDO J. CARDINAL VIDAL, D.D.
  Archbishop of Cebu
COFFEE BREAK
OPENING CEREMONIES
KEYNOTE ADDRESS
  Foundations of the Ethics of Life: Ethic Personalism
  H.E. MOST REV. ELIO SGRECCIA, D.D.
  President, Pontifical Academy for Life
BREAK
EVANGELIUM VITAE
  Evangelium Vitae and the Culture of Life Today
  H.E. MOST REV. WILLEM JACOBUS EIJK, D.D.
  Bishop of Gronengen, the Netherlands

  Evangelium Vitae and the Churches in Asia
  H.E. MOST REV. LEONARDO Z. LEGAZPI, O.P., D.D.
  Archbishop of Caceres, Naga City
OPEN FORUM
LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION
THE BEGINNING OF LIFE
  The Human Embryo as a person
  FR. KEVIN D. O'ROURKE, O.P.
BREAK
  Reproductive Technology
  DR. JOHN M. HAAS, Ph.D., S.T.L.
OPEN FORUM

TUESDAY: December 06, 2005

MORNING SESSION
CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST
  Main Celebrant
  H.E. MOST REV. GAUDENCIO ROSALES, D.D.
  Archbishop of Manila
COFFEE BREAK
OPENING CEREMONIES
THE END OF LIFE
  Is There a Right to Die?
  DR. BRIGID VOUT
BREAK
CARE FOR THE CHRONICALLY AND TERMINALLY ILL
  FR. JOHN FLEMING
OPEN FORUM
LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION
SPECIAL QUESTIONS
STEM CELL RESEARCH
  H.E. MOST REV. ANTHONY FISHER, O.P., D.D.
ORGANS: FOR A FEE OR FOR FEE?
  ANGELES TAN ALORA, M.D.
BREAK
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND QUALITY OF LIFE
  DR. BENEDICT ALO D'ROZARIO
OPEN FORUM

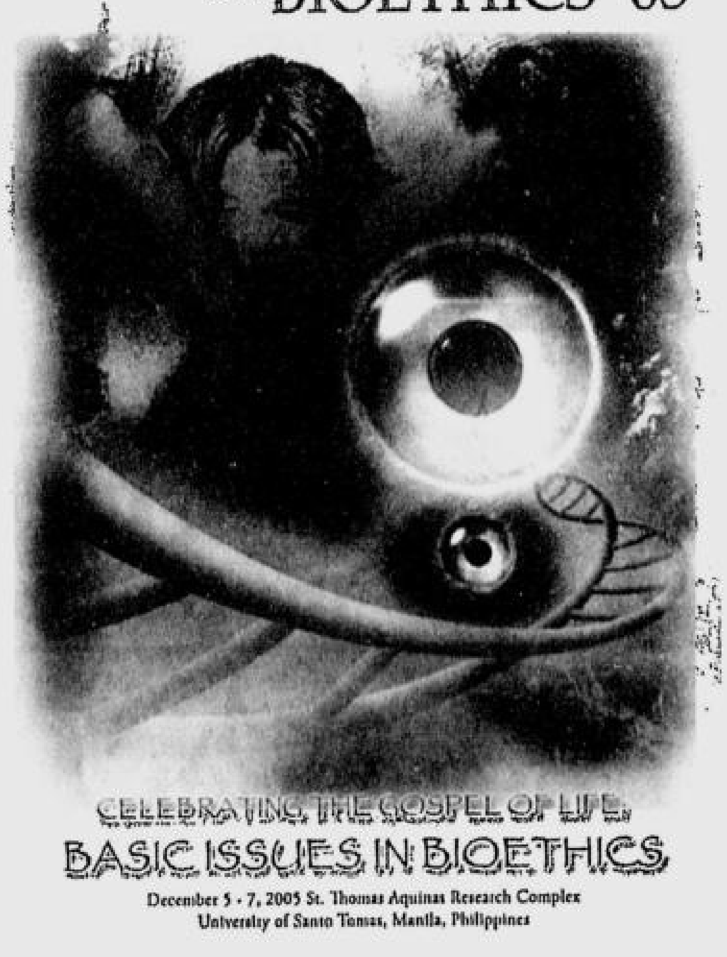
WEDNESDAY: December 07, 2005

MORNING SESSION
CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST
  Main Celebrant
  H.E. MOST REV. ANTONIO FRANCO, D.D.
  Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines
COFFEE BREAK
LIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
  Environmental Ethics: Human Life and the Environment
  MICHAEL (CHENG-TEK) TAI, Ph.D.
BREAK
ECOLOGY AND POPULATION
  ROSA LINDA G. VALENZona
OPEN FORUM
LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION
LIFE: MEANING AND CHALLENGES
  The Meaning of Life
  H.E. MOST REV. JOSE F. OLIVEROS, D.D.

  Future Challenges to Life
  REV. FR. TAMERLANE R. LANA, O.P.
BREAK
OPEN FORUM
READING AND APPROVAL:
  Statement of the Congress
CLOSING CEREMONIES

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
ON BIOETHICS '05



CELEBRATING THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:
BASIC ISSUES IN BIOETHICS
December 5 - 7, 2005 St. Thomas Aquinas Research Complex
University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines

CHA-CHA CONSULTATIONS

Cordillera blocks foreign ownership

BAGUIO CITY—ECONOMIST GONZALO Jurado took pains to describe the business realities of mining to Cordillera participants in a session of the Malacañang-backed Consultative Commission on Constitutional Change here on Wednesday.

But it wasn't enough. The participants voted to block proposed constitutional amendments that would open up Philippine assets to foreign investors.

The Cordillera hosts some of the oldest Philippine mines, and it remains a major mining resource for the country. The Arroyo administration recently advocated a policy of support to the mining industry.

Jurado belongs to a four-man team of commissioners who are assigned to poll the Cordillera about government plans to liberalize the Philippine economy through Charter changes.

Peter Cosalan, president of the Ibaloi group of elders called *Aspulan*, told the commissioners that amendments to the 1987 Constitution would only weaken the recognition and protection granted to indigenous Filipinos.

Some participants in fact demanded amendments that would "correct" the flaws of Section 5, Article 12 of the Constitution, which prescribes rules on the national economy and patrimony.

Section 5 states that government, "subject to the provisions of the Constitution and national development policies and programs, shall protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to their ancestral lands to ensure their economic, social, and cultural well-being."

The participants voted to include a correction made by Baguio sociology teacher Joseph Andaya that makes state protection of ancestral lands and ancestral domain a mandatory government obligation that is no longer subject to government projects.

At the Clark Special Economic Zone on Thursday, businessman Liberato Laus, a commissioner, described the Cordillera decision as "emotional and sensitive."

Laus and Jurado facilitated the Baguio session on Article 12.

Jurado told the Cordillera participants that their votes should consider the economic contributions of mining to the local economies.

He said the investments of foreign mines would cover brisk hiring of local labor, local government taxes and social community programs.

Removing foreign property restrictions in the Constitution is supposedly a business community demand, but the business sector wants a study on federalism before making "a go for it," said Commissioner Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. (Philexport) in Clark.

Commissioner Donald Dee, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), said there is a "clear mandate" among Filipino businesses to support a parliamentary system.

But shifting to a federal republic still leaves many questions unanswered regarding fiscal and resource management, he said. "We want stability," he added.

Laus said Metro Manila participants in the consultation gave an "overwhelming support" for amendments that allow foreign ownership of mass media, colleges and universities and public utilities.

A Kalinga provincial official said restricting foreign ownership to media is "a matter of national security because we will not be able to defend ourselves from libelous criticisms from a foreign-owned network that is based here."

Andaya said local telecommunications firms managed to grow, without amending the Charter to allow foreign technologies to enhance Philippine communications.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

TOO MANY DARNAS! JOFELLE TESORIO/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
More than 30 gays dressed in Darna costume, are out not to save the world from evil, but to participate in this year's Christmas Cheer Dance Competition during the Paskuhan sa Kapitolyo, a yearly fun and frolic at the Provincial Capitol Park Square in Puerto Princesa City. Life is difficult these days, they said, so they opted to wear the Philippine heroine's costume as it only needs small pieces of cloth.

Bicol split on federal form of government

LEGAZPI CITY—BICOLANOS FAVOR a unicameral legislature under a parliamentary form of government but are divided on federalism.

These preferences surfaced during the consultative workshops conducted by the Consultative Commission created by Malacañang to get the pulse of the people on the proposed Charter change.

The regional consultation was first held in Naga City on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 here attended by sectoral representatives from Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay, Sorsogon and the island provinces of Masbate and Catanduanes.

Most of the participants opposed the present bicameral legislature, saying it causes untold delays in the legislative process which hamper national development.

"We don't need unnecessary gridlock in the legislative process which only delay economic development," said Mayor Ding Ramos of Gubat, Sorsogon, who campaigned among other participants to reject the present bicameral form.

He also described as absurd the reactions that Malacañang was pushing for a parliamentary form to give President Arroyo either a graceful exit or a chance to continue in power.

Commissioner and Albay Vice Gov. James Calisin said delegates to the consultative workshop held in Naga City also favored the unicameral-parliamentary form of government but preferred a unitary structure, similar to the present structure.

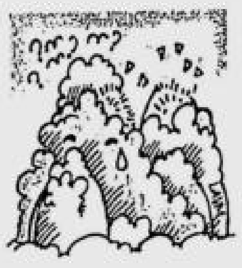
Participants in the earlier consultation argued that Filipinos are better off under a unitary structure as it has been ever since.

Delegates in the Legazpi consultation, however, endorsed the federal structure as it would spur developments in the countryside, stressing that Bicol would greatly benefit under such system as it has a huge power supply and sufficient natural resources.

The consultations, Calisin said, would end by Dec. 15. *Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Sierra Madre campaign



ILAGAN, Isabela—Top officials in Isabela have joined Bishop Sergio Utleg and local priests in asking the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to step up the campaign in protecting the Northern Sierra Madre mountain range. Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca and Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy signed a manifesto that was earlier endorsed by Utleg urging DENR officials to stop illegal logging in parts of the Sierra Madre, especially in Ilagan and San Mariano towns. Felix Taguba, provincial environment and natural resources officer, received a copy of the manifesto and set a meeting with DENR personnel to discuss issues raised in the document. Taguba said he would also meet with licensed lumber dealers and wood processors in Isabela to get their sentiments on the issue.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Marijuana destroyed

CAMP DANGWA, Benguet—Police uprooted P1.6 million worth of marijuana plants in Kapangan, Benguet on Friday, reports from the Cordillera police office said. Benguet policemen seized and destroyed 7,200 fully grown marijuana plants worth P1.44 million and 4,000 seedlings worth P160,000 in a farm in Sitio Bad-ayan in Barangay Pudong, Kapangan at 7 a.m. Friday. No farm caretaker was arrested during the operation, reports said. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Naga cop slain

NAGA CITY—A policeman was shot dead by unknown assailants believed to be members of the New People's Army (NPA) at about 8:45 a.m. Nov. 30 in Concepcion Pequeña town here. SPO3 Caciano Paromog, assigned at the intelligence department and two years into retirement, died after he was fatally hit on the face, according to Chief Insp. Ariel Lustre Ayosip, crime scene investigator. Two empty shells of .45-cal. pistol and a cell phone case were found around the place where Paromog died. Senior Supt. Ramon Ranara said Paromog was on his way to a training seminar on bomb response when he was ambushed. Ranara said Paromog had known that he was on the death list of the NPA.

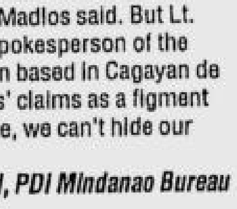
Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 dead in mishap

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Two people, including a 1-year-old child, died while nine others were seriously injured in a vehicular accident in Silang, Cavite on Nov. 29, police said. Cavite police director Senior Supt. Benjardi Mantele identified the fatalities as Marcelino Esguerra, 34, and Niña Rizen Medina. Mantele said the victims were travelling towards Sta. Rosa, Laguna on board a Nissan Sentra together with five others when their vehicle collided head-on with a jeep driven by Victor Mejia in Barangay Puting Kahoy, Silang at around 3 p.m. He said witnesses told police investigators that the car was travelling at a high speed as it approached the bent portion of the road.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NPA claim denied



BUTUAN CITY—New People's Army rebels on Thursday claimed they have killed at least nine soldiers using landmines in Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur over the weekend. Jorge Madlos, alias Ka Oris, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front in Mindanao, said an undetermined number of soldiers belonging to the 36th Infantry Battalion were in a cargo truck owned by a logging firm when it rammed over control-detonated landmines in Barangay Bigaan at about 8 p.m. on Saturday. "Based on accounts from the field, nine soldiers have been killed," Madlos said. But Lt. Col. Francisco Simbajon, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, dismissed Madlos' claims as a figment of imagination. "It's not true, we can't hide our casualties," he said.

Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Davide's legacy of activism: Break or continuity

From page A1

more succinct definition of this legacy. The court's series of legitimacy decisions in 2001 stamped a tendency toward "judicial activism and statesmanship," Salonga commented.

The other dimension that the decisions reveal is that they underline the concerns to the court to establish a milieu of political stability from which orderly governance can proceed within the framework of constitutional democracy, under pressure at the time from populist street activism.

The choice for the next Chief Justice has narrowed to a short list of three senior associate justices—Reynato Puno, Artemio Panganiban and Leonardo Quisusmbing—screened by the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) which nominates them for appointment by the President.

The issue involved in the nomination is whether the President will adhere to the time-honored seniority tradition, seldom breached except under extraordinary circumstances. Tradition was broken in 1920 when President Manuel L. Quezon appointed Secretary of Justice Victorino Mapa Chief Justice over the most senior justice, Florentino Torres.

During the Japanese regime, the occupation government appointed Jose Yulo Chief Justice. In 1985, at the height of martial law, President Ferdinand Marcos bypassed senior Justice Claudio Teehankee twice, appointing in succession Justices Felix Makasiar and Ramon Aquino as Chief Justice in July 1985 and November 1985 respectively, reportedly for political reasons, since Teehankee had written adverse opinions against the martial law regime.

Seniority as norm

President Corazon Aquino appointed Teehankee Chief Justice after the 1986 "people power" revolution. Since Teehankee's reinstatement in the seniority line, this norm has not been breached. The Teehankee experience has been cited to support the argument that seniority helps insulate the court from political pressure and ensures its independence.

This tradition is not sacrosanct, since the President can appoint even an outsider (she is reported to have considered Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago to succeed Davide). Because her nomination by some legal groups did not make the deadline of the JBC, the default has inspired speculation and expressions of relief that the court may have been spared potential volatility given the recent mercurial shifts of Santiago's political loyalties, although her deep knowledge of the law is beyond doubt.

Puno and Panganiban are reported to be the frontrunners in terms of seniority, but the bigger issue is whether either would represent a continuity of or a break from the Davide Court's legacy of activism. A related question is who of the court can and will redirect its orientation to other less politicized issues.

Another issue is that a Panganiban succession would be short-lived. He is due for compulsory retirement in just a year, making his watch no more than transitional. Puno has three and a half more years to go before compulsory retirement.

Continuity or break?

The argument that while following the seniority tradition helps maintain stability in the judicial system, there is an equally compelling argument that seniority cannot be the sole criterion for appointing a wise and just Chief Justice.

To exclude demonstrated judicial erudition is a recipe for judicial sterility. Given their CVs, both Puno and Panganiban have impressive judicial credentials, but Puno's seniority gives him the edge, given that his long experience in the judiciary and the quality of his decisions has been outstanding, although Panganiban is credited with a prodigious output in the Davide Court.

This brings me back to the important question of continuity of or a break from the Davide legacy of judicial activism.

Will anyone of the three nominees—Puno, Panganiban or Quisumbing—represent a continuity or a break from the Davide legacy of activism?

Both Puno and Panganiban are associated with landmark pivotal decisions of the court that facilitated the accession of Vice President Arroyo in January 2001 and that bestowed legitimacy to her takeover.

Rationale of intervention

Panganiban, however, is closely associated with the decision of Davide to swear in Ms Arroyo as President on Jan. 20 as the country stood on the edge of chaos amid a power vacuum following the withdrawal of military support for the Estrada administration.

Davide himself describes the rationale of this extraordinary court intervention. In his foreword to Panganiban's book, "A Centenary of Justice," Davide said that members of the court were "thrust into center stage of an extremely crucial point in the history of our Republic whose moorings teetered precariously into collapsing."

Though less of an activist than Panganiban, Puno penned the landmark decision of March 2, 2001, that established the legal foundation for the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration. Davide said that the 13-0 decision, with himself and Panganiban abstaining, was a "defining watershed that would be cast in concrete at the portals of constitutionalism."

Puno's majority opinion made an elegant and tightly argued case that, based on the test of "the totality of prior contemporaneous events bearing a material relevance on the issue," Estrada was deemed to have resigned, although he had not handed in a formal letter of resignation.

Vote showed cohesion

This landmark decision on legitimacy was made more emphatic by a companion decision on March 2, 2001, in which the court voted 9-4 to throw out Estrada's petition seeking immunity from criminal suits, thereby clearing the way for the trial of Estrada on charges of plunder and corruption in the Sandiganbayan.

It must be emphasized that in the key cases involving the legitimacy of the Arroyo regime, the court had voted decisively and left no doubt about its cohesion.

While both Puno and Panganiban were key figures in cases that served as foundations of the Arroyo administration's legitimacy, the independence of the court was never an issue. Nor should it be an issue that a post-Davide court would be less independent of the President. The administration faces legitimacy questions of a different kind—that associated with charges of alleged election cheating. The current crisis presents a different set of circumstances.

The Davide activist legacy cannot serve as an ironclad model with which to mediate legitimacy issues stemming from the current political crisis. A restraint in activism might even help enhance the credibility and legal authority of the Supreme Court.

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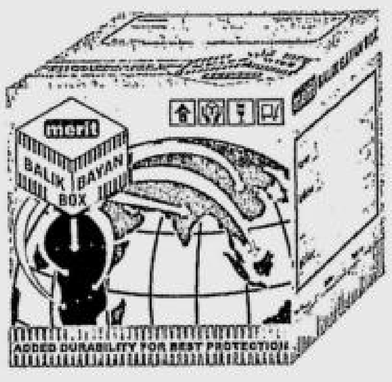
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Garci in Metro, vows to reveal phone pals

From page A1

that Garcillano had finally emerged in public, suggested the only way people could make the ex-poll commissioner tell the truth was to pull out his teeth. *(See related story on this page).*

The one question that had vexed the nation since news broke two weeks ago that he was back and ready to talk was whether—or how far—he would tell the truth.

And if he would do so, no matter who got hurt.

Garci wants 'closure'

Before flying to Manila at noon, Garcillano told a select group of reporters that he was voluntarily turning himself over to lawmakers to put a "closure" to the poll fraud allegations against Ms Arroyo.

He claimed election officials in the 25 provinces of Mindanao were willing to come out to disprove charges that he had rigged the balloting to ensure Ms Arroyo's victory.

"They are willing to testify not in my favor (but) just so the public may know what's the true score," said Garcillano.

But he said he couldn't "hope to convince" a skeptical nation.

Men with assault rifles

Garcillano put on quite a show when he turned up at the beach where a 23-member group composed of House and police officials and reporters had been waiting for him.

From a Cotabato City hotel, the group endured a 30-minute bumpy ride and a 10-minute walk to reach the beach believed to be under the sphere of influence of the Moro National Liberation Front.

A *kumpit* (Moro fast boat) escorted the boat that brought him ashore.

With the wind at his back on a clear, sunny day, Garcillano's boat made shore in 10 minutes. He later said his trip from an undisclosed origin took 30 to 45 minutes.

Besides him and his cousin Tomas Garcillano Jr., the boat was carrying seven men, some hooded. Others lugged AK-47 and other assault rifles.

Salute for Garci

It was only after some of the men had alighted from the boat that Garcillano—dressed in brown pants and a vest with beige shirt—showed himself.

As if on cue, one of the hooded men saluted him.

Garcillano threw his arms around two reporters who had interviewed him last week and then clutched the hand of this reporter, as though not wanting to let go.

Everyone gathered around him as he walked to a hut where some locals had prepared a lunch of boiled bananas, corn and grilled fish.

His lawyer Eddie Tamondong told the INQUIRER during the flight to Manila that since the House committees had temporarily lifted the warrant for his arrest, his client was not being placed under house arrest.

On arrival in Manila, Garcillano was whisked away to a safe house in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig.

JDV's request

"He was just being provided protection by the PNP as requested" by Speaker Jose de Venecia, said the lawyer.

Garcillano said earlier he was being protected by a Moro group all these months that he said he was in the South.

"Nobody will betray me here," he said, referring to his Moro and Christian protectors.

The man who had been the object of national ridicule seemed to be fighting off tears when he said that "the time has come to leave the company of my friends, to whom I am forever grateful for painstakingly giving shelter to me and my wife."

"We have always been on the run, and the people were very much willing to help me," he said.

'Don't drag me in'

Justifying his decision to hide from the public, Garcillano said six to nine members of the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation had reportedly gone to Mindanao to arrest him.

He said his fears were assuaged when he saw Fabic who had served as provincial commander of Sulu when he was an election officer in the province in the '70s.

"There are those who want me to continue hiding, or people who will tell me, *'wag mo na akong isali* (don't drag me in)," he said.

He said he waited for this time to appear in public "because when this (allegation) came out, the scales of justice appeared to be off-balance, and I realized it's useless for me to be talking in public."

He said he felt the public was now willing to listen.

Flight 188

"If they are able to listen, then probably they will be able to understand my side of the story."

Fabic was with Tamondong and PNP security official Senior Supt. Romeo Hilomen when he fetched Garcillano.

Garcillano flew into the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on board Philippine Airlines flight PR 188. He was the first passenger to emerge from the aircraft and was engulfed by security people and journalists.

The 15 policemen assigned to guard him included those who provide security to VIPs or people under threat.

A Naia source said six security personnel were also on the flight with Garcillano.

Not his voice

The source said Garcillano's name was not on the flight manifest, suggesting he must have booked the flight under a different name.

Tamondong said the names of some of the politicians who called Garcillano during the elections would be revealed today.

He said the politicians and other people whom Garcillano would sue "for besmirching his reputation" would also be identified.

Tamondong stressed that Garcillano had never admitted he was the one on the controversial "Hello Garci" tapes.

"He's not the one," Tamondong said.

Asked how Garcillano could convince the public that he would be telling only the truth, Tamondong said: "Believing is subjective. For those who believe, no explanation is necessary; for those who do not, no explanation is possible." *With a report from Nikko Dizon*

WHAT THEY SAY

By TJ Burgonio

- THE RETURN OF VIRGILIO Garcillano to the limelight ahead of his testimony in the House of Representatives drew these reactions yesterday:
- Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson: "Save for a few opposition congressmen, we shouldn't expect an honest effort from the House to ferret out the truth … I advise those who have weak hearts or hypertension to skip the Dec. 7 hearing. Garci's anticipated antics could be hazardous to their health … Don't count on Garci as far as the truth is concerned."
- Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan: "We need a more credible witness who worked with him up close but that may not be forthcoming … The people know better than to waste precious time listening to him if he refuses to tell the truth."
- Sen. Sergio Osmeña III suggested an extreme form of torture to compel Garcillano to tell the truth: "Pull out all his teeth."
- University of the Philippines Prof. Randy David, who writes a column for the INQUIRER, said on ANC television that he expected Garcillano to try "to take the heat off" Malacañang in his testimony: "I expect him to do two things: Come up with a story that complements what Malacañang has so far in its own peculiarly fumbling way produced [and] incriminate figures in the opposition … For as long as there are huge questions that [remain], we cannot move on as a country."

FORMER Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano signs the House invitation served by House sergeant-at-arms Bayani Fabic. ERIK ARAZAS

SEAG champion at last; RP team bags 113 golds and counting

From page A1

struck gold through Roland Claro in the men's lightweight, Claire Cadampog and Lianne Flameno in the women's 51-54 kg yai kru and Victoria Agbayani and Cristina Custodio in the women's 54-57 kg yai kru.

A golden double came from the bowlers, who struck through Liza Clutario in the women's masters and Markwin Ty in the men's masters at the Pearl Bowling Center in Parañaque City.

In Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Juvic Pagunsan kept the individual golf crown he won in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur edition and powered the men's team, also composed of Jay Bayron, Michael Bibat and Marvin Dumandan, past the Singaporeans to the title at The Country Club.

The archers also hit their target with the women's team of Amaya Paz, Jennifer Chan, Abigail Tindugan and Joan Chan Tabaniag topping the team compound and the men's side of Marvin Cordero, Mark Javier, Florante Matan and Cocoy Cobilla ruling the men's recurve at the Subic Bay Freeport.

Flexing their muscles, bodybuilders Michael Borenaga and Alfredo Trazona topped the 65 kg and 75 kg divisions, respectively. Borenaga stunned Malaysian Sazali bin Abd Samad, a six-time Mr. Asia winner and two-time world champion, to the cheers of a big crowd at the GSIS Theater in Pasay City.

Also contributing to the Philippine coffers were Christabel Martes in women's marathon, Rubilen Amit in the women's 9-ball pool singles and Fil-Ams Eric Taino and Riza Angela Zalameda in the tennis mixed doubles.

As expected, the Filipinos cruised to the gold medals in baseball and softball, which returned to the Games after a six-year absence.

The Filipino batters routed the Thais, 10-0, to complete a sweep of the inaugural staging of baseball at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium.

It was payback time for the RP Blu Boys as they subdued the Indonesians, 3-2, who denied them the crown when softball was last staged in the 1997 Jakarta SEAG, at the Rosario Sports Arena in Pasig City.

Earlier, the RP Blu Girls asserted their supremacy over the Indonesians, 8-0, whom they also beat for the title in the 1997 edition.

In Angeles City, Ronald Lising clinched the men's singles gold of lawn balls by nipping Malaysian Syed Mohamed Syed Akil, 21-19.

Anna Joy Fernandez won the gold in the 52 kg division of indigenous sport arnis at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym in Manila.

This early, the Filipino athletes have met the expectations of national training director Michael Keon, who projected a gold haul from a low of 92 to a high of 128.

At a glance, it was the traditional boat rowers who made the biggest splash for the Philippines in the Games as they swept the six golds staked in the event at the La Mesa Dam in Quezon City. It was a big leap from their one-gold, one-silver haul in Vietnam two years ago.

The wushu artists, on the other hand, wound up the most productive for the Philippines with 11 golds, en route to ruling the event which contributed six golds in 2003 in Vietnam.

They were followed by the aquatic and athletics bets with nine golds each and the cue artists with eight. The tracksters narrowly missed their 10-gold target, mainly because of favorite Eduardo Buenavista's close defeat in the 10,000m and his disqualification in the 5,000m.

Snapping out of a 12-year slump, the Filipino boxers regained supremacy in the event with eight golds, four of which came from the women's team, to put one over the archrival Thais at the University of St. La Salle Coliseum in Bacolod City.

Filipino jins regained the taekwondo championship with six golds while the fencers also ruled their event with five golds.

Individual stars also emerged in triple gold-medalists Miguel Molina of swimming, Shiela Mae Perez of diving, Benjamin Tolentino Jr. of rowing and Alex Pagulayan of billiards.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Peping Cojuangco attributed the Filipino athletes' exceptionally strong performance to better preparation.

"They've always taken us for granted in a lot of sports and all of a sudden they see us very competitive," said Cojuangco. "I think that's what shocked a lot of our visitors here."

Left to be contested today are the men's and women's standard chess titles at the Tagaytay City Convention Center and the indoor volleyball men's and women's crowns at the West Negros College Gym in Bacolod City.

The 24th SEAG will be held in Bangkok in 2007.

INDIVIDUAL
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JUVIC Pagunsan shows off the gold medal he won in golf (men's individual) at The Country Club in Canlubang, Laguna. JUN RAPANAN

RUBILEN Amit beats her Malaysian rival for the gold in ladies' singles in 9-ball billiards at the Makati Coliseum. RUDY ESPERAS

Bonds of solidarity, friendship matter most, says GMA

From page A1

of officiating in several events of the 23rd edition of the regional meet this time hosted by the Philippines.

Ms Arroyo has ordered an investigation into the controversy, directing organizers to submit a report within 24 hours. Philippine officials promptly explained that contests were judged by referees and umpires drawn from an international pool of experts and that Thai officials in the country had accepted the results without any complaint.

Ms Arroyo and Thaksin are expected to meet when they join other leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Dec. 12-14 in Malaysia. The Thai leader had indicated he planned to discuss the SEA Games on the fringes of the summit, which normally discusses economic and security issues.

With the Philippines likely to take the overall championship of the Games, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the sterling performance, courage and determination of the national athletes to win "should subliminally be related to our efforts to lift the economy that has shown an equally sterling performance."

Gold in economic front

"We can communicate that we are on the verge of winning the gold in the economic and political spheres through fundamental and meaningful reforms carried out with political will," Bunye said.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo also congratulated the Filipino athletes for their outstanding performance.

"It is unfortunate to hear speculations and comments with no basis about the manner of officiating in some sports events," he said, adding that the competitions were conducted fairly.

He said technical officials were from neutral countries. Where a Filipino was involved, the contest referee was not a Filipino, he said.

But even on the penultimate day of the games, complaints surfaced.

Philippine officials yesterday said Thailand did not deserve the men's boxing title, blaming bad officiating for its losses in all head-to-head final bouts with its main rival.

The losses sparked a near-riot at the University of St. La Salle gymnasium in Bacolod City on Saturday.

The Philippines and Thailand squared off in four men's gold medal bouts, and Philippines team manager Ruben Roque said the hosts deserved at least one more gold from either featherweight Joegen Ladon or light-welterweight Romeo Brin.

"The crowd could see the scoring," said Roque. "We can take it if the decisions were good. For Brin, we definitely won that fight."

After three straight losses, fans hurled bottles, coins and food toward the ring, prompting the stoppage of the night's last fight between Filipino Reynaldo Galido, a former Asian Games winner, and Athens bronze medalist Suriya Prasathinpimai of Thailand.

Security troops redeployed

Galido was down 11-4 after the first round, and it looked unlikely that the points were going to come his way in the following rounds, Roque said.

"The decision to stop the fight (when crowd trouble began) was a good one," said Roque. "If we had continued, the trouble would have just gotten worse."

He said decisions that went against Ladon and Brin were caused by bad judging, and nothing more.

Thailand won five boxing gold medals while the Philippines won four.

As the games wind up today, the Philippine National Police will shift to watching tourist spots, officials said.

Hundreds of foreign athletes are expected to stay for a few more days to visit beaches, resorts and other popular tourist sites before returning home.

Director General Arturo Lomibao, PNP chief, instructed field commanders to shift their security focus from the games to tourism effective today, said Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson.

Some 12,500 policemen, soldiers and firefighters were deployed to secure the Games. *With reports from Nikko Dizon, Luige A. del Puerto and AP*

Police save Chinese-Filipino trader from abductors

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Luige A. del Puerto

POLICE SUCCESSFULLY RESCUED a Filipino-Chinese businesswoman during a shootout against suspected kidnappers at around 2 p.m. yesterday, less than three hours after she was abducted in Teresa, Rizal.

"The kidnap victim was recovered unharmed," Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

A suspect was killed during the shootout while another was arrested.

A policeman was wounded in the exchange of fire, said Calderon, the head of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) which assisted the Rizal Provincial Police in the operation.

The 46-year-old kidnap victim, a certain Ong, was on her way to her chicken and egg farm when four men blocked her vehicle shortly before noon yesterday.

The alleged kidnappers demanded P20 million from her family, initial reports from Pacer also said.

The suspects took the victim on board a maroon Nissan Patrol, escorted by a Starex van.

But the provincial police coordinated with the Pacer, which quickly sent its tracker teams to find the vehicles. The provincial police also alerted its men stationed at checkpoints.

Hours later, the two vehicles were spotted in Taytay, Rizal. Police caught up with the suspects but they allegedly opened fire, forcing the lawmen to fire back.

Operatives managed to neutralize the suspects on board the Nissan Patrol where Ong was. But those in the Starex van managed to escape and were being chased by the police as of 6 p.m.

MMDA hands out performance cards

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FINALLY, A BETTER WAY OF keeping track of the daily performance of metro traffic enforcers.

Starting today, all traffic enforcers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) stationed at fixed posts along major thoroughfares will be required to fill up a Traffic Enforcement Monitoring (TEM) card which they must carry around at all times during their shift.

"It's double purpose. The concept of the TEM is [for the MMDA] to ensure the timely deployment of traffic enforcers, and to give the motorists a means to report their complaints about the decorum of traffic enforcers," said Antonio Pagulayan Jr., chief of the MMDA Traffic Operations Center (TOC) Personnel Inspection and Monitoring Group.

The TEM card will serve as a monitoring tool for the MMDA's traffic management force, allowing it to better police its ranks while providing a feedback mechanism for motorists who want to complain about errant enforcers.

At first glance, the card looks like a typical daily time record. On the front is written the traffic enforcer's name and the district/unit and section/station he is assigned to and the period or month covered. The inside of the card lists the dates of the month and the time the enforcer started and ended his shifts in the morning and afternoon. The entries must be countersigned by his reliever. On the other side of the card are blank spaces for merit/demerit reports to be filled up by motorists.

The TEM card is expected to lessen complaints about unmanned traffic posts. Pagulayan explained that the TOC's internal monitors found out that traffic enforcers have developed the habit of showing up late for their shift and getting off too early.

"At times, motorists would notice that traffic on Edsa would be congested between 12 noon to 1 p.m., and then we find out there are no enforcers in the field. Our enforcers are given their break time and only then should they leave their posts," he told the INQUIRER.

To ensure that enforcers stay at their posts until the last minute, their TEM cards should be countersigned by their reliever and vice versa, with a supervisor serving as a witness.

The TEM card will also serve as a feedback mechanism as Pagulayan said a driver may demand an enforcer's TEM card where he can write down his complaint.

"Enforcers must never refuse to give their TEM cards to motorists. Anybody could write down their complaints about an enforcer's behavior, like if they weren't polite in talking to the driver, if they were eating, smoking, or chatting while on duty, or if they were not in proper uniform," he added.

Vendors told to stay off the sidewalk

DAANAN HINDE TINDAHAN!

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SIDEWALKS ARE ONLY for pedestrians—even on Christmas.

This is the reminder local government officials in eastern Metro Manila have for ambulant vendors whose numbers have begun to swell along key streets with the start of the holiday season.

"Vendors are still not allowed on sidewalks. We will still drive them away if they set up stalls there," Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando said yesterday.

Instead, she is encouraging vendors to just set up stalls in the bazaar the city government put up in the City River Park.

But stalls at the bazaar are not for free. Rentals range from P2,000 to P15,000, depending on the location.

In Mandaluyong City, the local government is giving ambulant vendors a narrow space on Kalentong Area, which has long been plagued by heavy traffic.

"We will allow them to sell their products there, as long as they do not disrupt traffic," Mandaluyong City Mayor Neptali Gonzales II said.

He said the concession was being done "in the spirit of Christmas."

But vendors are barred from peddling on sidewalks in other areas, he added.

Suspected car thief a victim?

From page A24

"Unknown to Tuzon... De los Santos sent a TMG agent purportedly to redeem the mortgaged vehicle but actually to entrap Tuzon in a buy bust operation," Molina said. "But my client saw through the ruse and refused to accept the money being offered by the TMG agent for the redemption of the stolen vehicle."

Asked if he was implying that the TMG and De los Santos had links, he said: "That is what I suspect. That is why I urged Secretary Reyes to dig deeper into this."

Molina said his client has proof that he had been turning over cash to De los Santos, who recently voluntarily submitted himself for investigation to Reyes in an effort to clear his name.

But the police described Tuzon's allegations as "just his alibi."

"*Malabo yan* (That's absurd)," said Supt. Eduardo Bayangos, head of the TMG-Special Operations Group.

"If the transaction is between them (Tuzon, De los Santos), why would we be there? These accusations are not true," he said.

"He was trying to sell us the car (Villania's Nissan Patrol). We started negotiating on Sunday. We even had to produce P850,000, and that Thursday was supposed to be the final negotiation. It was Tuzon whom we were talking with all the time," Bayangos said.

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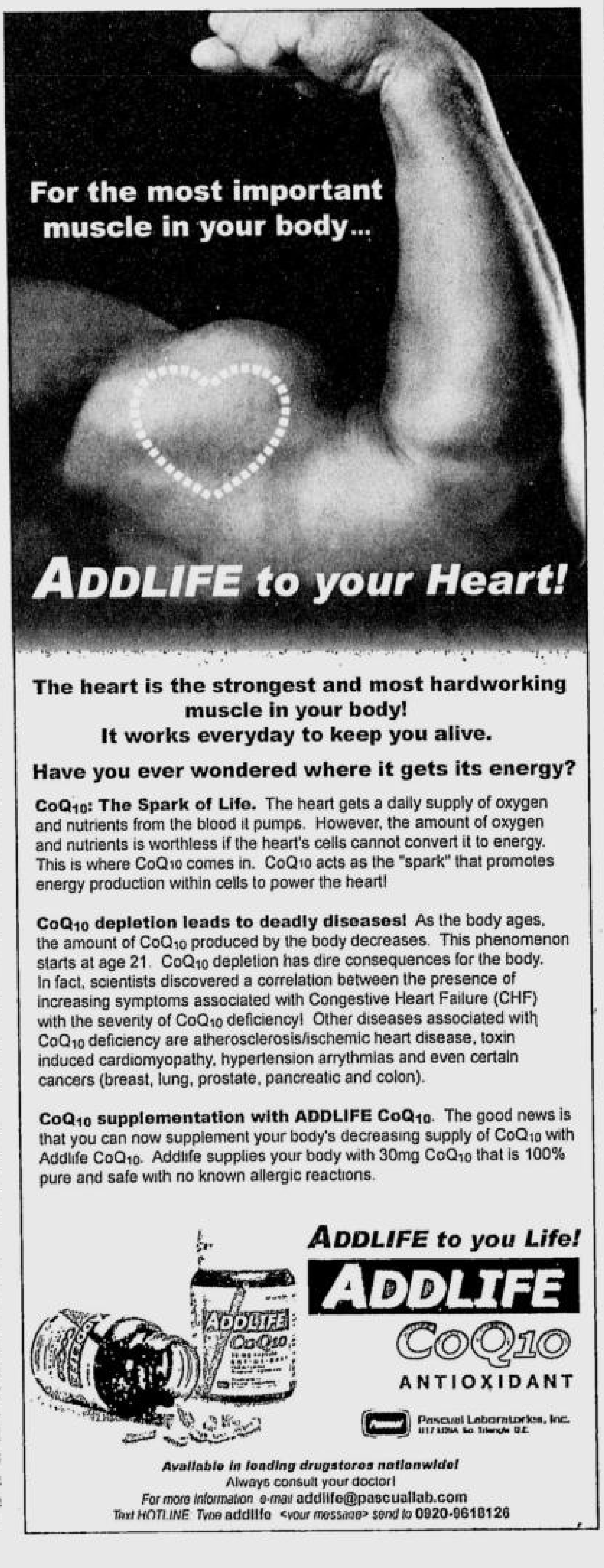
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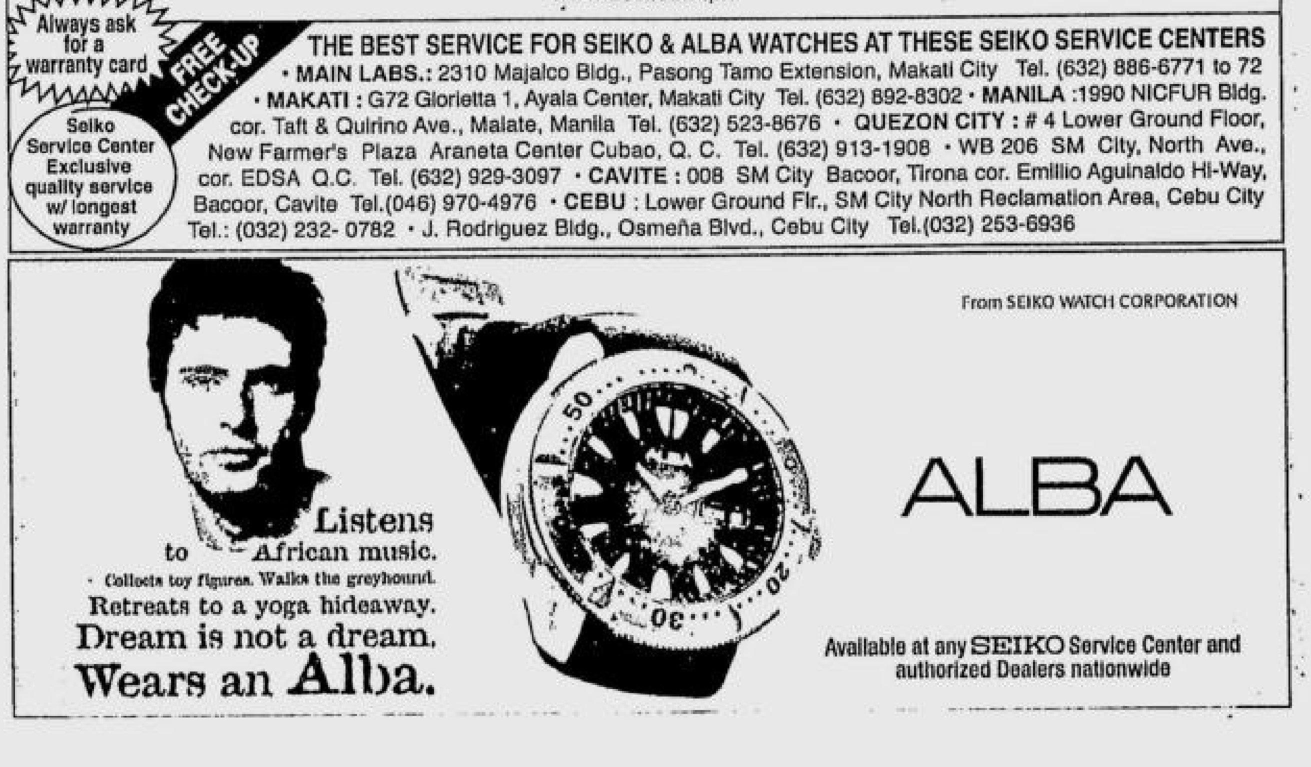
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NBI warns traders on fake raiding teams

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTigation (NBI) has warned the public against unscrupulous groups using the bureau's name to conduct raids on Internet cafes, especially in the provinces.

"There have been many shady people acting as operatives from the NBI or Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team so they could intimidate and even extort money from Internet cafe owners," NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division chief Jose Justo Yap told reporters in an interview.

Yap said the bureau's regional directors and agents have been ordered to investigate the people behind the illegal operations.

He also reminded Internet cafe owners to ask for a search warrant and proper identification from "suspicious" raiding teams.

The NBI official said their recent raid on a large Internet cafe chain "was their first operation since the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team ended its moratorium on the use of unlicensed software last September."

Agents recently raided three branches of Excel or Expressions Center for Learning in three shopping malls and seized 286 computer units worth P10 million.

Yap said the confiscated desktop computers contained unauthorized reproductions of unlicensed Microsoft software like Windows XP Home, Windows 98 Special Edition and Microsoft Office 2002.

The Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team, composed of the NBI, the Optical Media Board, and the Philippine National Police, had given businesses using pirated computer programs 30 days to buy authorized software before they began a series of raids last Sept. 16.

In newspaper advertisements published last Aug. 17, the Business Software Alliance and the anti-piracy team said that losses due to piracy amounted to P3.7 billion last year.

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Suspected car thief a victim?

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE LAWYER OF A CAR THEFT SUSPECT who was arrested during a buy bust operation last Nov. 17 that led to the recovery of five hot cars in Quezon City has turned the tables on the police.

Manuel Molina, the lawyer of Patrick Tuzon, claimed that the Traffic Management Group of the Philippine National Group connived with Jose "Jayjay" de los Santos, who is also being implicated in carjacking activities, to entrap Tuzon, a claim that the police found absurd.

"(Tuzon) is himself a victim of the carjacking syndicate," Molina said in a statement.

He also claimed that no buy bust operation took place on Nov. 17, contrary to a police report.

Molina said Tuzon had told him that he and de los Santos know each other because they had dealt in the sale or mortgage of cars in the past.

De los Santos provided the cars, including the Nissan Patrol which turned out to have been stolen from TV host Iya Villania, he added.

Lately, Molina said Tuzon's "principal," whom he refused to name, got suspicious of the cars' papers.

"His principal said there was something fishy about the cars' papers and had them checked," the lawyer told the INQUIRER on the phone. "Tuzon then asked De los Santos to give him back the money (he gave for the cars)."

De los Santos agreed and told Tuzon he would send the money through his driver along with a wristwatch as a sign of "good faith."

SUSPECTED/ A23

Foundation sets up vegetable seed bank

BERTOL

THE MANILA SEEDling Bank Foundation and Environment Center (MSBFEC), on its 28th year, is putting up a vegetable seed bank to spur food production.

"City-dwellers and farmers from all over the provinces in the country can avail of quality seeds of fast-growing and high-yielding vegetables at very low prices," Chito Bertol, MSBFEC president and general manager, said.

Some of the available seeds are tomato, *upo, ampalaya, mustasa, okra, kangkong*, bell pepper, hot pepper, eggplant, squash, *patola*, pole *sitao*, radish and *pechay*.

Vegetable seeds will be given free by the foundation to civic and charitable institutions who wish to have a garden in their communities. To avail, they should write to PCSO chair Sergio Valencia at the PCSO complex, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

To avail of vegetables seeds and other products of various MSBFEC projects like charcoal for fuel, compost oil, fruit and forest tree seedlings, and services such as tree pruning, relocating, rehabilitation and beautification, visit the MSBFEC on Quezon Avenue corner Edsa, Q.C. or call 9240166 and 9247001 to 02.

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Bowlers rout rivals, sweep Masters golds

By Jun Engracia

THE PHILIPPINES YESTERDAY GOT THE victories it needed most to assert its mastery of bowling in the region, courtesy of two unlikely heroes.

Southeast Asian Games rookie Markwin Tee, the youngest member of the Philippine team, showed no reverence for his more experienced opponents as he captured the men's Masters title to climax the bowling competitions of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Pearl Bowling Center in Parañaque City.

Tee routed top qualifier Remy Ong of Singapore in the second game of their gold medal showdown en route to a 437-366 conquest and his first gold medal in the regional meet.

BOWLERS/ A28

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SEA Games MEDAL TALLY

Country	G	S	B	Total
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THAILAND	75	77	107	259
VIETNAM	64	62	81	207
MALAYSIA	56	47	60	163
INDONESIA	48	73	83	204
SINGAPORE	40	31	53	124
MYANMAR	16	34	47	97
LAOS	3	4	12	19
BRUNEI	0	2	2	4
CAMBODIA	0	1	8	9
TIMOR LESTE	0	0	3	3
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Medal tally (As of 8:04 p.m. December 4, 2005)
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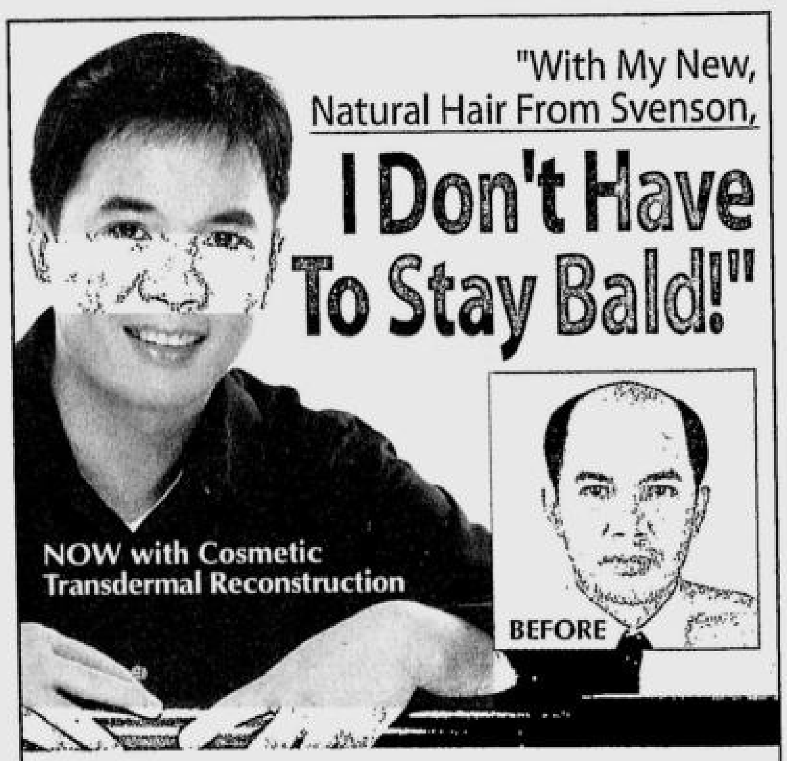
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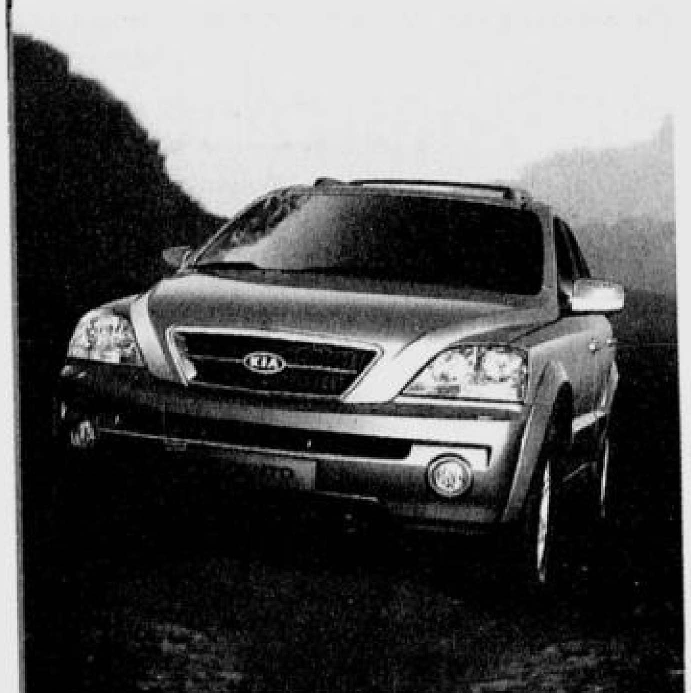

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RP bets better prepared this time—Peping

COJUANGCO: We shocked them.

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE PHILIPPINES' STRONG SHOWING IN the 23rd Southeast Asian Games may have "shocked" other nations, but Philippine Olympic Committee president Peping Cojuangco maintained that the host nation's athletes are prepared "better than ever."

"They've always taken us for granted in many sports, and all of a sudden they see us [getting] very competitive," said Cojuangco as the biennial meet draws to a close today with the Philippines comfortably ahead in the race for the overall title.

"I think that's what shocked a lot of our visitors here," he added. "That surprised them."

Thailand Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra took the glory out of the Philippines' explosive campaign early last week after questioning the fairness of the officiating and results of several games.

With a diplomatic row seemingly in the offing, Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that Thaksin's remarks were "taken out of context" by the media.

In an official statement, the Ministry also clarified that the top Thai official was merely stressing his opinion that "the spirit of participation among all athletes is more important than the winning of medals."

Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop echoed the same statement on Friday, noting that the Philippines and Thailand still "have very good relations."

"I always thought the preparation (of the RP athletes) was better than ever," said Cojuangco. "I think we've never prepared this good in the history of Philippine sports. Our athletes were preparing for over one year and that helped a lot."

"I hope we can continue doing so in the coming games," he added. "Or maybe even have a stronger preparation so we can aim for higher competitions like the Asian Games and the Olympics."

The chief executive officer of the Philippine SEAG Organizing committee also commended the other countries' impressive campaign.

"A lot of people were also surprised that many countries who weren't expected to win a lot of medals were winning like Myanmar, and Singapore also did extremely well."

Laos also captured its first gold last Friday in the men's petanque singles competition, while Timor Leste finally barged into the medal tally with a bronze in arnis.

Pagunsan, men's squad score; 2 silvers for ladies

By Musong R. Castillo

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—TWO RUNAWAY GOLDS FOR Juvic Pagunsan and Co. but two silvers for the female parbusters.

Pagunsan capped a banner year by retaining his men's individual title while powering the Philippines to the team gold yesterday in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games golf championship.

The reigning national amateur champion fired a five-under-par 65 and duplicated his victory in the 2001 SEAG in Malaysia by 14 shots with a 13-under 267 total.

Inspired by his heroics, the Filipinos captured the team gold by eight strokes over Singapore as Michael Bibat backed up Pagunsan with a 68 and Jay Bayron and Marvin Dumandan carded 71s.

The Philippines finished with a 628 total as it matched its twin golds in the 1999 Brunei Games courtesy of the men's team spearheaded by Gerald Rosales.

But Jayvie Marie Agojo and her teammates failed to keep up with their hot-shooting counterparts as the Thais scored a similar title sweep in the women's division.

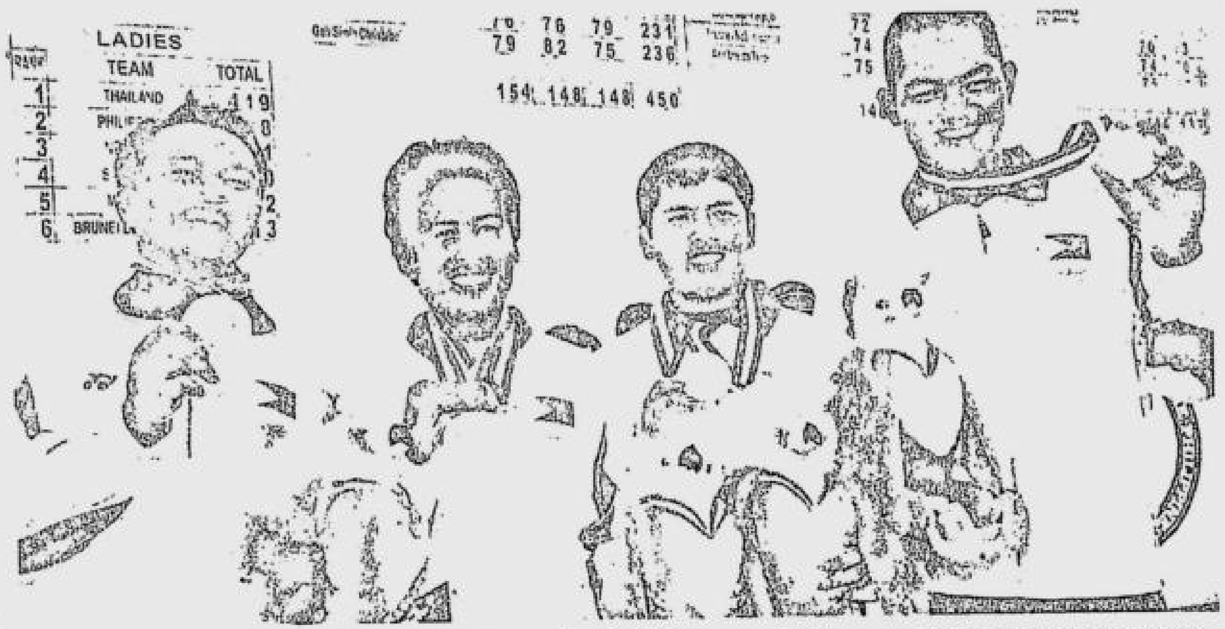
Agojo closed out with a 72 and settled for the silver medal, four shots behind Thailand's Nontaya Srisawang, who shot a course record 66 to finish at seven-under 209 for 54 holes.

Sukintorn Saensradi salvaged the individual bronze by one over Filipino Frances Bondad and helped Thailand clinch the women's team gold with a 419 total, nine shots ahead of the host golfers.

Indonesia, led by Lidia Ivina Jaya's 73, carded a closing 149 and took the women's team bronze at 441.

"I am very happy, not only for myself but for the team as well," Pagunsan told the INQUIRER in Filipino. "It's a great feeling winning here when you are cheered by your countrymen. Nothing is more special."

"We can't ask for anything more as far as how Mr. (Ricky) Razon gave our national teams everything," Luisito Fernandez, the NGAP sec-gen, said. "Our boys won the tournament all right, but golf was the winner here."



MEMBERS of the RP team, from left, Marvin Dumandan, Juvic Pagunsan, Jay Bayron and Michael Bibat, show their gold medals after bagging the team title at The Country Club in Laguna. JUN RAPANAN

Razon served as golf's godfather in cooperation with the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Ekalak Waisakul of Thailand churned out a third straight 71 under windy conditions at The Country Club course for a one-over 281 and the men's silver medal.

Choo Tze Huang of Singapore, the joint first-round leader, landed the bronze with a 73 for 283.

Aside from finally winning the national amateur, Pagunsan also won the DHL Open aside from emerging as low amateur in the Philippine Open this year.

The victory also basically erased the stigma of a brush in he had with the National Golf Association of the Philippines when he announced that he would turn pro earlier in the year.

Burma (Myanmar) sustained a respectable showing after Bo Bo broke par for the second consecutive day with a 69 that gave his team a 645 aggregate and the bronze medal.

Pagunsan, who had earlier rounds of 69-69-64, eagled the par-5 14th after a glorious 4-iron into the wind from 230 yards which landed four feet off the cup.

The only hiccup for Pagunsan, who is in his final year as an amateur, came on the par-3 sixth hole, when he missed the green and failed to get it up and down from the thick rough.

Leviste, Lanza finish behind Malaysian ace

By Jasmine W. Payo

TONI LEVISTE HAD A PERFECT RIDE IN THE second round, but it wasn't enough as she settled for a silver medal in the individual showjumping finals of the equestrian competition in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday at the Alabang Country Club polo field.

Defending champion Qabil Ambak of Malaysia captured the gold, while Filipino Juan Ramon Lanza secured the bronze.

"Of course, we wanted two gold medals," said Leviste, who led the Philippines to the gold in the showjumping team event last Friday. "I did my best, but the rest was up to God."

It was a tight contest, with only one point separating each medalist.

Ambak, riding 15-year-old bay gelding Camelias, topped both rounds with a score of 3.

Leviste, riding Belgium-bred chestnut mare Globe Platinum Maktub, finished with 4. Lanza, with bay gelding Don't Cry For Me, scored 5.

"We're disappointed, but we had the team gold," said Lanza. "In showjumping, it's really who's on on that day and who's not on. My horse arrived a bit tense in some fences."

Leviste cleared the second round in 72.75 seconds, after knocking down one rail in the first round for a four-point penalty.

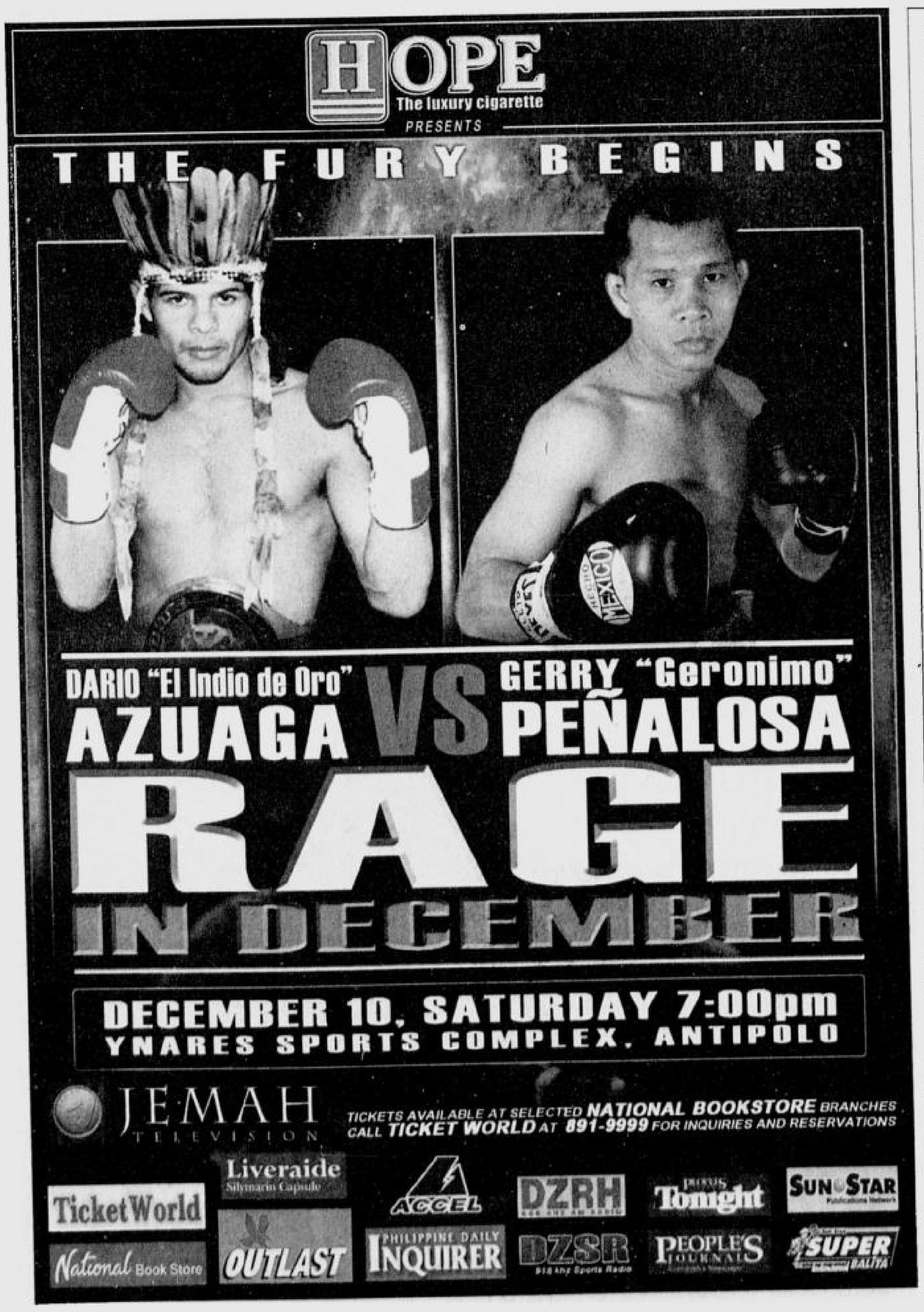
Lanza also downed one rail in the opening round, then incurred a one-point time penalty in the second for a five-point total.

Riding last among nine finalists, Ambak had one time penalty in the second round after incurring two faults in the opener.

"My horse has been jumping really well, so I'm very happy," said Ambak.

Joker Arroyo, the 17-year-old daughter of Sen. Joker Arroyo, finished sixth overall with 17.

Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, who did not compete in the individual competition, openly cried after her teammates missed the individual gold.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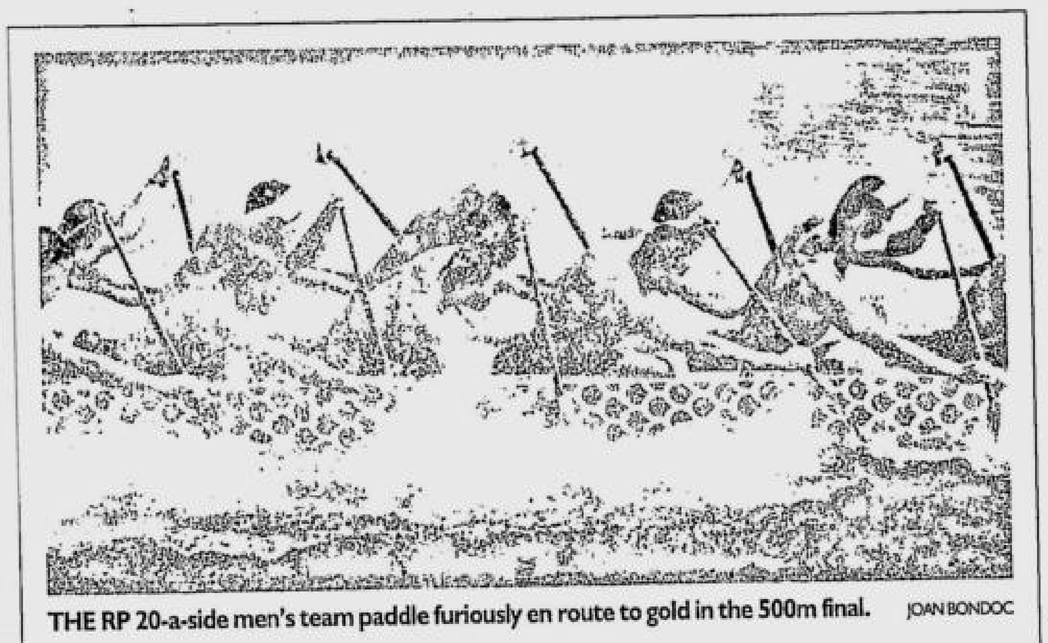


THE RP 20-a-side men's team paddle furiously en route to gold in the 500m final. JOAN BONDOC

Philippine boat racers pull off six-gold sweep

SWEET SWEEP.

Brooms were not present at the La Mesa Dam yesterday, but the Philippine boat racers still showed tremendous form and paddled their way to a first-ever gold medal sweep in the sport in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

The confident and determined Filipinos won all three races held over 500 meters in a masterful follow-up to their three victories in the 1,000-meter categories the other day for a perfect six-of-six golden romp.

The Filipinos swept the two 10-a-side races, winning the men's action in 1 minute 51.91 seconds over Burma (Myanmar) (1:55.73) and Indonesia (1:58.38), then prevailed in 2:09.36 in the women's side.

The female rowers finished five seconds ahead of the Burmese and six seconds up on the Indonesians.

"We were expecting the sweep," said men's team captain Manuel Maya. "We really think that we're stronger in the 500-meter events."

"This is our shining moment," women's team captain Geraldine Bernardo said.

The RP men capped the unprecedented feat when they prevailed in the 20-a-side event, clocking 1:43.84 against Myanmar's 1:44.33 and Indonesia's 1:47.65.

RP coach Nestor Ilagan said he was only expecting the team to get four golds. "The feeling is great, more so because I didn't expect the sweep," he said. *Rufino Lopez III*

Trike driver bags lawn bowls gold

ANGELES CITY—TRICYCLE DRIVER RONALD Lising beat Malaysia's Syed Mohamad Syed Akil, 21-19, in the men's singles finals to capture the gold in the lawn bowls event of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games here Sunday.

Lising, 23, from Barangay Pampang here, clinched the victory through a backshot that hit the jack. Lising is the first Filipino to win the gold medal in lawn bowls since the Philippines joined the competition in the 2001 SEAG.

Lising himself was tense, pacing the rink before rolling off his maroon bowls. Leading by a point at 20-19, he pointed his forefinger to the sky, as if bidding the heavens to give him luck.

"Miracle," he said of his victory. "I persevered. I wanted the Philippines to win."

He said he felt dizzy when the scorecard showed him trailing Syed by three points, 16-19.

In Sunday's championship match at the Hidden Vale Sports Club here, the Philippine lawn balls team reaped three silvers and two bronzes.

Malaysia topped the field with three golds, two silvers and a bronze. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Martes gives RP marathon gold split

By Hazel B. Sanculi

MARTES: To the rescue. RYAN LIM

BLISTERED FEET AND ALL, Christabel Martes ruled the 23rd Southeast Asian Games' women's marathon to make up for the shock defeat of Allan Ballester and Roy Vence in the men's side of the concluding event in athletics yesterday.

Martes timed two hours, 47 minutes and seven seconds for the gold medal in the 42.195-km run that treaded the fabled Roxas Boulevard and some parts of Edsa from the Rizal Memorial oval and back beginning at sunrise.

"I told myself that I had to push it even if it was hurting so bad," Martes said in Filipino, referring to the blisters she sustained just after the 5km mark. "I knew it was going to heal after the race, anyway."

Feri Marince Subnafeu of Indonesia settled for the silver medal with a clocking of 2:54.23, while Burma's Pa Pa, who was second to Mercedita Manipol in the 10,000 meters on Monday, took the bronze in 2:54.55.

Jho-Ann Banayag, the second RP entry, clocked a personal best 2:59:04 and checked in fourth.

Thailand's Boonchoo Jandacha ruled the men's race earlier, breasting the tape in 2:29.27, almost a minute ahead of an overmatched Vence, who timed 2:30.11 for the silver medal.

The 26-year-old Thai policeman broke away from the two Filipinos at the 30-km mark and was never threatened.

Ballester, who was seeking a second straight marathon title, settled for the bronze with a time of 2:32:25.

"We did our best to win, but he (Jandacha) was clearly the stronger runner," Ballester told Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok after the race.

With the marathon gold medal split, the Philippines finished with nihe victories, one shy of Go's earlier prediction, but one better than RP's output in the Vietnam Games of 2003.

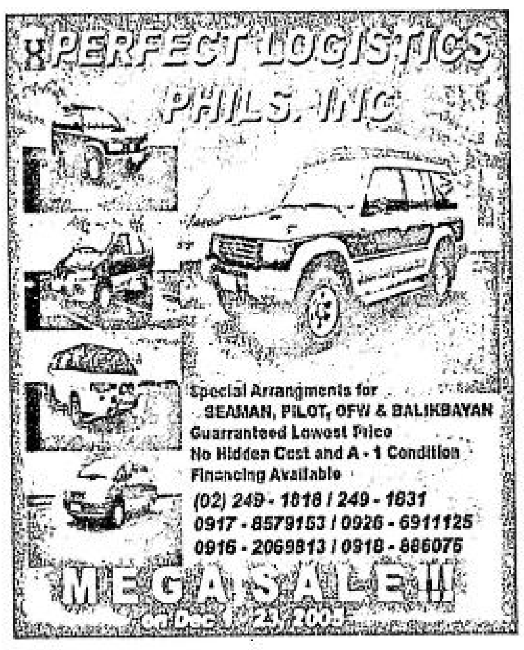
A native of La Trinidad, Benguet, Martes won a second SEAG gold despite skipping the Vietnam edition two years ago because of a femur injury.

She also offered the triumph to her late father, former runner Juan, who passed away last April. "I felt like he was guiding me out there," Martes said. "This one's for him."

With Boonchoo's win, Thailand kept the overall crown with a gold-silver-bronze tally of 12-13-19.

"You can hang me if you want," Go told scribes. "(Winning) nine gold medals is good. The problem is I opened my big mouth and predicted that we would win 10."

Filipinos won four of their gold medals in the field.



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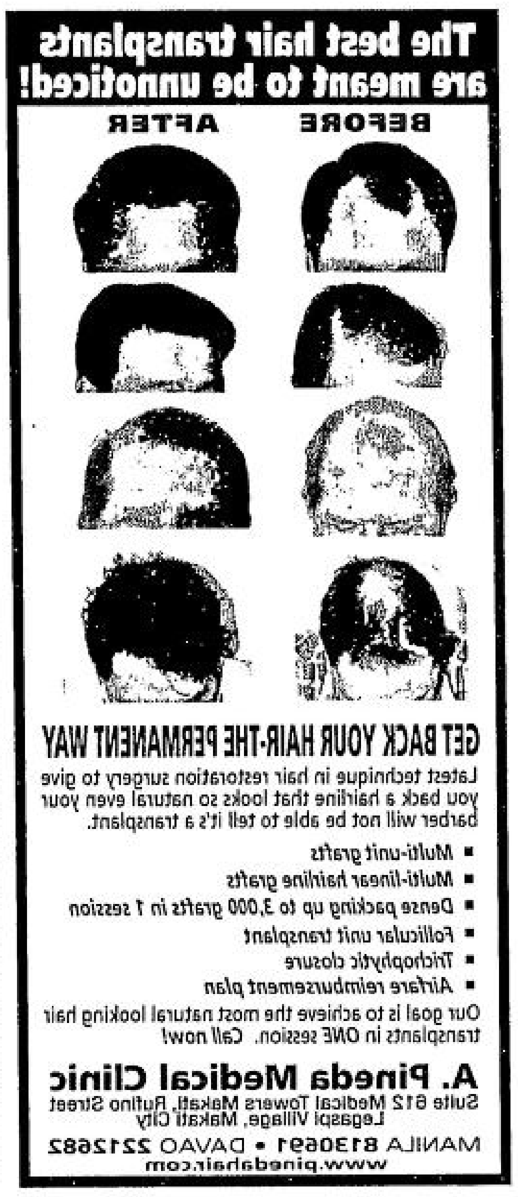

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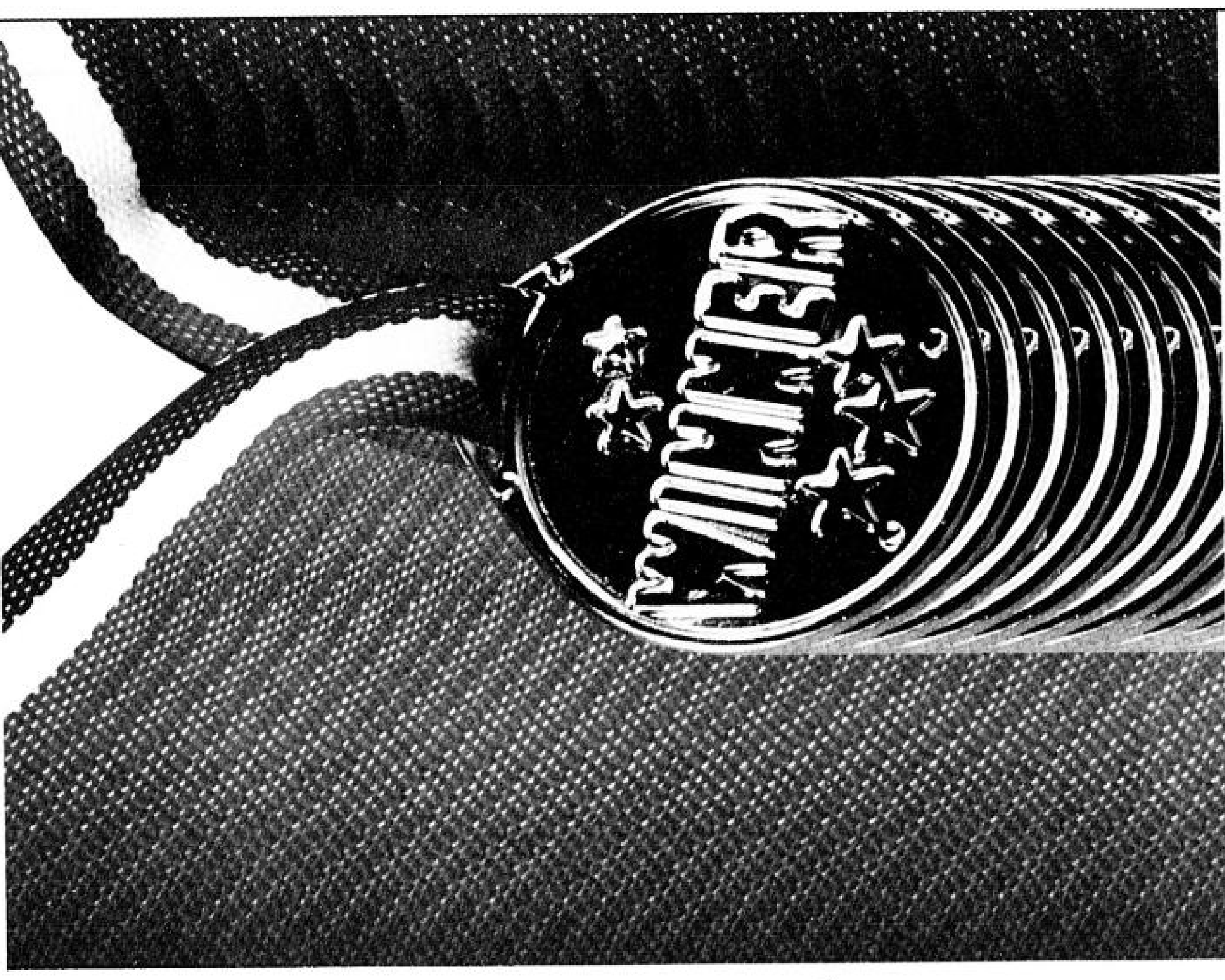

PHILIPS
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Teamwork's worth its weight in gold.

GOLD STRIKES MORE THAN TWICE

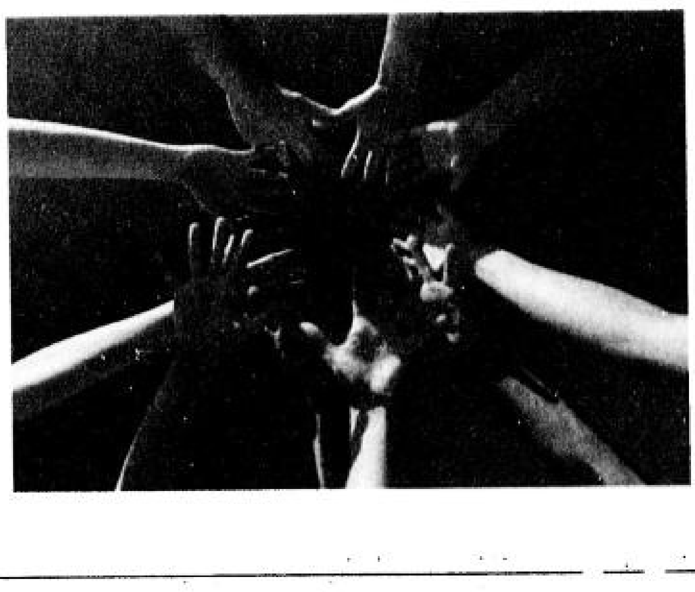
From the start of the 23rd South East Asian games, a 743-strong Philippine contingent showed the rest of the country what unity can do. In the first few days of the biennial meet, the Filipino delegation won the most number of medals and the most number of golds. Facing traditional powerhouses Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam at the 11-nation competition, a few Filipinos left behind their differences and led the pack to success through commitment and integrity.

A GOLD MINE OF TALENT

Filipinos like disciplined 19-year old diver Shiela Mae Perez, the first triple gold winner of the games, and hardworking 24-year old mountain biker Baby Maritess Bitbit, the only Filipino to garner gold in the cross-country event, unify their divergent countrymen in pride. Others worthy of honor are Nelson Pacalso, the lone Filipino to strike gold in Karatedo, and long jumper Maristella Torres, the first to land gold for the Philippines. Unfettered by self-serving policies and set free by selfless patrons, committed youths like these let progress run its course.

LIVING BY THE GOLDEN RULE

Just like a responsible citizen, one corporation follows these principles and leads by example. In the way that all citizens should work hand-in-hand in the spirit of nationalism, Philips extends a hand to Filipino athletes in the spirit of teamwork. After all, responsible Filipinos should favor progress as they would have progress favor them.



GOLDEN AGE RISING

It's not impossible to see a golden age of prosperity rise again. See what unity in sports can do. If individual citizens support each other instead of dragging one another down, Filipinos can rise up to the challenge of nation building and become a major player in the South East Asian arena.

23rd SEA GAMES

Philips supports Team Philippines at the 23rd SEA Games.

Bowlers rout rivals, sweep Masters golds

From page A25

Earlier, Liza Clutario, who works at the Pearl lanes drilling bowling balls, presaged the RP sweep when she ran away with the women's Masters gold medal, routing her younger Singaporean rival, Jazreel Tan, 460-372.

Philippine bowling officials had hoped to win at least four of the 10 gold medals at stake to match their output in Malaysia in 2001 and were hardpressed to win the final two medals to achieve the target. Yesterday's sweep of the game's centerpiece events did just that.

The Filipinos, who bombed out in the team events where they were heavily favored, ended with four gold medals, five silvers and a bronze. Malaysia, which was shut out of the Masters' stepladder medal rounds, had a 3-3-3 output with Indonesia following at 3-0-3 and Singapore next with a 0-2-2 total.

In the Masters final, Ong fell victim to the lane oiling pattern of his own choosing and to Tee's determined play.

Tee, a 21-year old Ateneo business management student, qualified second after 16 games of Masters play and he had to dispose of the No. 3 qualifier, singles gold medalist Ryan Lalisang of Indonesia, 196-179 to earn the right to meet Ong in the two-game showdown for the gold medal.

Ong, the undisputed No. 1 player of Singapore who is coming off a successful season, had topped the Masters eliminations and looked formidable until he hit into a 7-6-10 split in the second frame. Another split, this time a 3-6-4-7 setup, left the 6th frame open.

The cocky confidence that propelled Ong to the top of the table after the elimination was gone by the time he bowled a 187 in the first game. Unable to find his line on the short-oiled lanes (it was his option as the top qualifier), he changed balls on the fourth frame of the second game, but this only made things worse as he missed the pocket time and again.

He shot a 179 in the second game, which was good considering he managed to convert two difficult splits in the process.

Tee, who shot a perfect game en route to a silver medal finish in the men's singles on Tuesday, scored a 200 in the first game and went into the second game with a precarious 13-pinfall lead. The turning point came when Ong left the third frame open and Tee bowled three consecutive strikes from there.

With Ong unable to mount a rally, Tee cruised the rest of the way, finishing strong with a four-bagger that capped a 237.

"*Sobrang saya* (I'm overjoyed)," said Tee. The Filipino had felt the pressure with the load of the Philippine bid for bowling supremacy weighing heavily on the shoulders of the smooth-swinging youngster.

But his victory over Lalisan in the first round of the step-ladder finals gave him confidence.

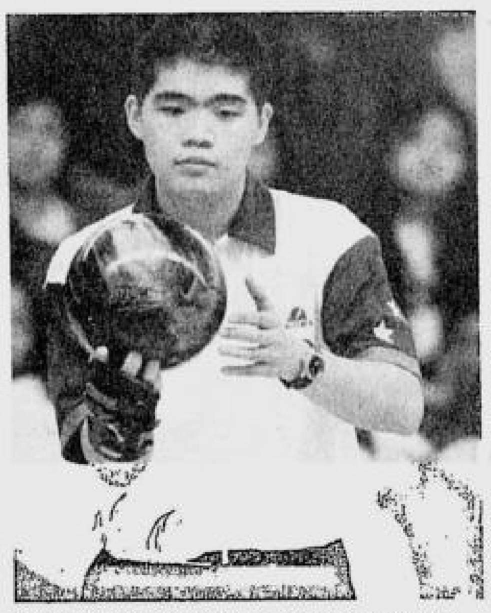
Clutario, a 26-year old veteran who works at the Pearl center pro shop, had an easier time in the finals. After topping the masters elimination, Clutario cooled her heels while Tan sweated it out before beating the No. 2 qualifier, Indonesia's Putty Armein, 203-156.

The Filipina was merciless against the 16-year-old Tan in the gold medal round. Overcoming an open frame early in the first game, Clutario threw in a four-bagger from the third frame and punched out in the 10th for a 225 against Tan's 177 that gave the Filipina 48-pinfall lead going into the second game.

Then Clutario opened the second game with a turkey and Tan did not even come close to threatening the lead. Clutario finished with a 235 against Tan's 195.

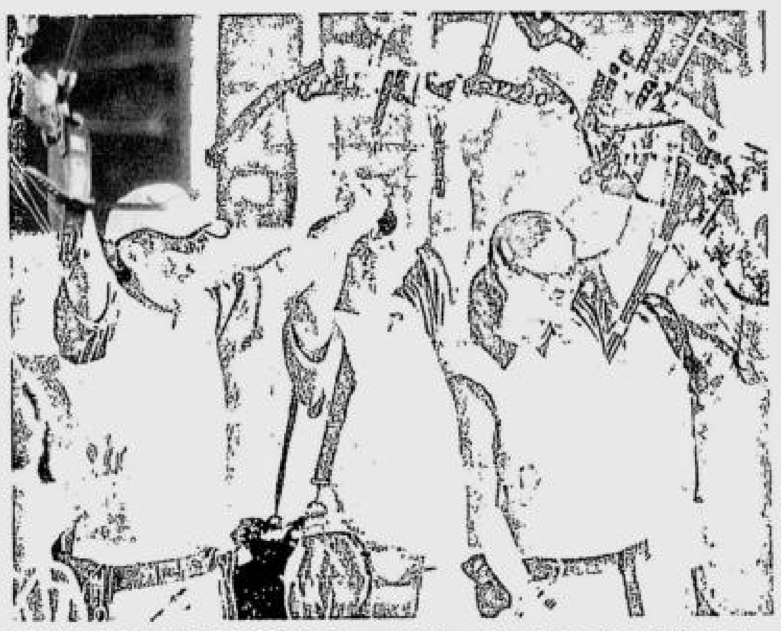
Clutario did not even know she was leading until the first game.

LIZA Clutario gets a kiss from her proud mom Lourdes after winning the womens' Masters gold. RUDY ESPERAS



MARKWIN Tee is a picture of perseverance. He beat three men to snatch the men's gold.

"I wasn't looking at the score," she said. "I was focusing on my game and I was praying with every shot." said, Clutario, a member of the Philippine team that won the gold medal in the women's trios in the world championship 2003. *With a report from Aric Abenojar*



VICTORIOUS FOURSOME: From left, Jennifer Chan, Joan Tabañag, Amaya Paz and Abegail Tindogan. ROMY HOMILLADA

RP archers

By June Navarro

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—FILIPINO ARCHERS PRODUCED two more golds at the close of the archery team competitions yesterday in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Remy Field here.

Spearheaded by Amaya Paz and Jennifer Chan, the women's compound team bagged the gold after clobbering Indonesia, 236-226, to cap a three-gold medal haul host archers.

Earlier, the men's recurve squad of Florante Matan, Mark Javier, Marvin Cordero and Cocoy Cobilla won at the expense of another Indonesian squad after escaping with a narrow 25-24 win in the shootoff.

"We sacrificed so much for this and all the hard work finally paid off," said Paz, the women's individual compound gold medalist over Chan Saturday. Jennifer Tabaniag and Abigail Tindugan were the other

Thais, Viets left to fight for 2nd spot

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THEIR LAST stand against the Philippines' solid drive to overall supremacy crumbled yesterday.

Thailand and Vietnam faded in the blazing endgame last night and were left to fight for second place overall behind the Philippines, which looked forward to officially claiming its first overall crown in the Southeast Asian Games today.

The idea was to snare as many golds as possible in the "Day of the 100 Golds," but Thailand could only grab eight of them by sundown with triumphs in golf (women's individual and team), tennis (men's doubles), men's marathon, gymnastics, muay thai, beach volleyball and shooting.

But that was all there is to it for the pretenders, who were trailing by at least 40 golds as of 6 p.m. yesterday with some 40 gold medals still unaccounted for.

"It's all over—it looks like the SEA Games overall championship is well secured," said SEA Games organizing committee official Harry Angping. "There are only a handful of gold medals for Thailand and Vietnam to make a last-ditch rally."

At presstime, the Philippines has an unprecedented harvest of 113 golds, 75 silvers and 76 bronzes as against Thailand's 65-72-95 count and Vietnam's 59-60-66.

Malaysia and Indonesia actually scored more than the Thais and the Viets but that hardly made a difference in the standing as they lagged behind at 48-45-53 and 43-61-65, respectively.

In several head-to-head encounters, Thailand managed to win seven of the 12 times it went for the gold against the host, remarkably beating the Filipinos in women's golf and tennis, but it failed to scoop vital victories even in its supposedly bailiwick, muay thai, where they matched the two golds won by the hosts for the day.

At the break of dawn yesterday, Boonthung Srisung denied the Philippines a marathon sweep by shaming Roy Vence and Allan Ballesteros for the men's gold, but RP's Christabel Martes quickly equalized when she wowed the big Sunday crowd at the Luneta for the women's plum.

Nontaya Srisawang edged RP's Jayvie Agojo for the women's individual gold (209-213) and later on steered the Thai women's team to victory against the Philippine team (419-428). Thai tennis twins Souchai and Sauchai Ratiwatana bested Fil-Ams Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino, 6-4, 6-2, for the men's doubles crown. And then after lunch, the Philippines scored an emphatic win over Thailand, 11-0, for the baseball gold medal at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

Vietnam, on the other hand, scored with three golds in canoeing Subic, three in pencak silat in Cebu City Coliseum and one in the Filipino martial art of arnis held at the EAC gym in Manila.

The most stinging Vietnam triumph over the Philippines was the 11-9 victory of Luong Chi Dung over highly favorite Alex Pagulayan in the 9-ball championship at the Makati Coliseum.

Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia also acted as thorns on the sides of the Thais and the Vietnamese as they took their share of the 100-medal haul, allowing the Philippines to tighten its grip of the leadership.

THAIS Sanchai Ratiwatana anc

Malays

Indonesian

By Cedelf P. Tupas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—RESOLUTE and a brilliant counter-at Malaysia's controversial 1-0 triu donesia in the bronze medal 23rd Southeast Asian Games n tournament at the Panaad Stad

Malaysian skipper Fadzli Bin pleted a 50-yard counter-attack footed rocket just inside the bo minute off a clinical give-and- Azlan Bin Ismali.

Then, the Malaysian boote the Philippines, 4-2, in the

RP nine bags gold over Thais in 8 innings

THE PHILIPPINES, WITH LEFTY ERNESTO Binarao pitching a five-hitter, overwhelmed Thailand, 11-0, in eight innings yesterday to claim the inaugural baseball gold in the Southeast Asian Games yesterday before a roaring crowd at the historic Rizal Memorial Ballpark.

Binarao struck out seven while his teammates backed him up with 12 hits, including four from shortstop Edmer del Socorro, who scored twice and drove in three runs.

The Filipinos, unbeaten in six games, scored twice in the second inning, three in the fourth, before ending the match under the 10-run rule.

It would have been a bigger rout, but for the strong stand of Thai pitcher Krissada Heepthong, who struck out eight Filipinos.

Indonesia snagged the bronze medal with a 3-2 decision of Myanmar. *Melissa G. Bagamasbad*

Blu Boys complete softball gold double

A PERFECT DAY!

The Blu Boys struggled before completing an expected softball double gold for the Philippines in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Rosario Sports Complex in Pasig City.

The Filipinos exacted revenge on the Indons after losing the gold in 1997, hacking out a 3-2 decision in the finals as pitcher Rogelio Rojas struck out the side in order in the last two innings.

The RP Blu Girls came up with an 8-0 romp over the Indonesian girls in the title match in a mighty comeback after losing 3-2 to Thailand at the close of the eliminations Friday.

Thailand copped the bronze due to a higher quotient over Singapore as they both ended the competitions with identical 2-4 cards.

Malaysia was the bronze winner in men's softball as the only other entry. *Llanesca Panti*

Rhythmic gymnasts show big promise

THE YOUTHFUL FILIPINO GYMNASTS failed to make a dent but officials were still pleased with their performance in the team and individual all-around events of rhythmic gymnastics in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Foong Seow Ting continued to dominate the event after spearheading the Malaysians to the team title, winning the individual all-around over perennial rival Thai Tharatip Sridee by two points, 58.600-56.600.

Another Malaysian, Darratun Nashihin, garnered 55.650 points for the bronze.

Philippine entries Danica Calapatan and Sheryll Contillo showed enough promise in their first SEAG.

The youngest RP athlete in the Games, the 12-year-old Calapatan rebounded from her languid performance in the team event last Friday and finished fifth overall with 44.550 points.

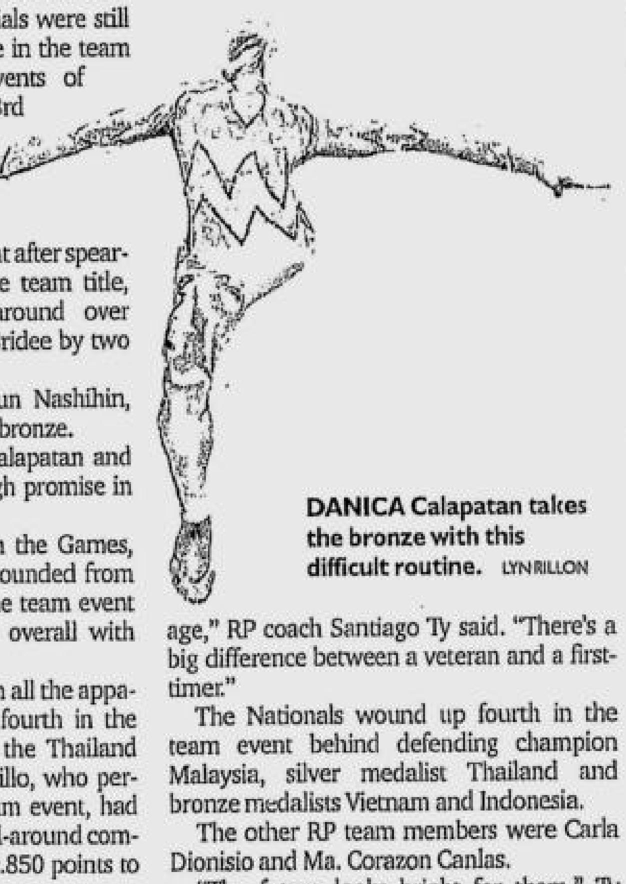
She made it to the top five in all the apparatus used and even ranked fourth in the rope and ball events behind the Thailand and Malaysian veterans. Contillo, who performed consistently in the team event, had an off night in the individual all-around competition and managed only 39.850 points to place ninth.

"They are good enough considering their age," RP coach Santiago Ty said. "There's a big difference between a veteran and a first-timer."

The Nationals wound up fourth in the team event behind defending champion Malaysia, silver medalist Thailand and bronze medalists Vietnam and Indonesia.

The other RP team members were Carla Dionisio and Ma. Corazon Canlas.

"The future looks bright for them," Ty said. *Hazel B. Sanculi*



DANICA Calapatan takes the bronze with this difficult routine. LYN RILLON

Thais to blame fo

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THERE WERE TWO TOTALLY CONTRASTING stories filed on the boxing finals inside the overfilled University of St. La Salle Coliseum in Bacolod City Saturday night.

Delight turned to disaster in a snap when restive home fans, noting that scoring in two of the final three bouts had become hysterically pro-Thai, nearly erupted into a riot.

The first story, filed by this reporter, said the evening has turned into a trouble-free quest for medals: "Triumphant shrieks turned the arena here (Bacolod) into a garden of delight after RP fighters made a harvest of gold medals to capture the Southeast Asian Games boxing championship before a thrilled crowd at the University of St. La Salle Coliseum."

That was the lead paragraph for the INQUIRER provincial edition on the RP team's successful bid to win the SEAG boxing title.

For the record, that story was rushed and e-mailed from the Internet cafe across the fight venue shortly before 9 p.m. Saturday.

There were still four decisive bouts to be fought, but a story had to be sent for the paper's first edition.

That initial story also noted that "after parading a total of 12 finalists—8 in the men and four female—the Philippines, with its women boxers making it a perfect four-for-four in the finals, had unseated Thailand as SEAG boxing champ after Filipino simonpures proceeded to score more golden wins in the male division."

* * *

Please take note that, in the provincial story, fans inside the coliseum were still t
and thankful.

Joan Tipon elicited ecstatic shriek
he made it three-for-three in the first
the men's finals by outfoxing Thai
Tangtong Klongjian, 27-4, for the
tamweight gold.

However, in the next fight, the f
weight division, the gallery started
and get restive after local boy Jogen
came close to scoring the tourna
biggest upset when he pummele
knocked down Athens silver medalist
joh Petchlaum of Thailand in the third
The judges gave the bout to the Thai
protest of a huge crowd "that felt th
hearted provincemate had gotten
deal."

* * *

Anyway, Negrense fans seemed wi forgive and forget.

Until it became clear that som judges were cheating Filipino fighter of their Thai opponents.

It was like this: With three more co final bouts, the Philippines had re

The day after: Puentevella decries poor ring officiatin

PUENTEVELLA

BACOLOD CITY—WHILE ABAP PRESIDENT MANNY Lopez has accepted the verdict of the three questionable bouts won by Thailand in the SEA Games men's boxing finals, Rep. Monico Puentevella yesterday decried what he described as "doubtful judging" against Philippine boxers Joegen Ladon, Romeo Brin and Reynaldo Galido.

In a letter sent to International Amateur Boxing Association president Anwar Chowdry of Pakistan, Puentevella, who is first vice president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, said he is "dismayed and disappointed" by the outcome of the three bouts and called for an immediate review of the fight scoring.

Ladon lost to Thai featherweight Worapoj Pethkum, 22-33, in the Saturday night's finals despite scoring a knockdown in the third round, while Brin bowed to lightwelterweight Pechai Sayota, 23-

"What happened last night is an ugly foot what can be considered as another successf Games," Puentevella told Chowdry. "Many were robbed right in front of our own eyes and own backyard. Our boxers suffered defeat hands of their opponents but as a result of dou judging." *Cedelf P. Tupas, PDI Visayas Bu*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

put away 2 more golds

embers of the squad.

Myanmar salvaged the bronze after a 245-228 rout Singapore in women's compound.

Indonesia's Hendro Suprianto, Kuswantoro, Pahat Sulistiyawan and Lockoneco celebrated prematurely after the third round of the 27-arrow, 70-meter curve, thinking they already had the gold in the bag.

But the Filipinos, after trailing for two rounds, 156-9, finally tied the count at 235, forcing a sudden-eath shootoff that shook the Indonesians. Matan, vier and Cordero then hit a total of 25 points in the tension round as against Indonesia's 24.

The Indonesian coaching staff questioned the scorg at the end of regulation but international archery dge Sergio Font Milian of Cuba ruled in favor of the lipino archers.

Malaysia settled for the bronze in the men's team curve after downing Myanmar, 235-225.

Another gold was expected in the men's team compound but Malaysia, anchored by Lang Hon Keong, yanked the rug from under the Filipino archers.

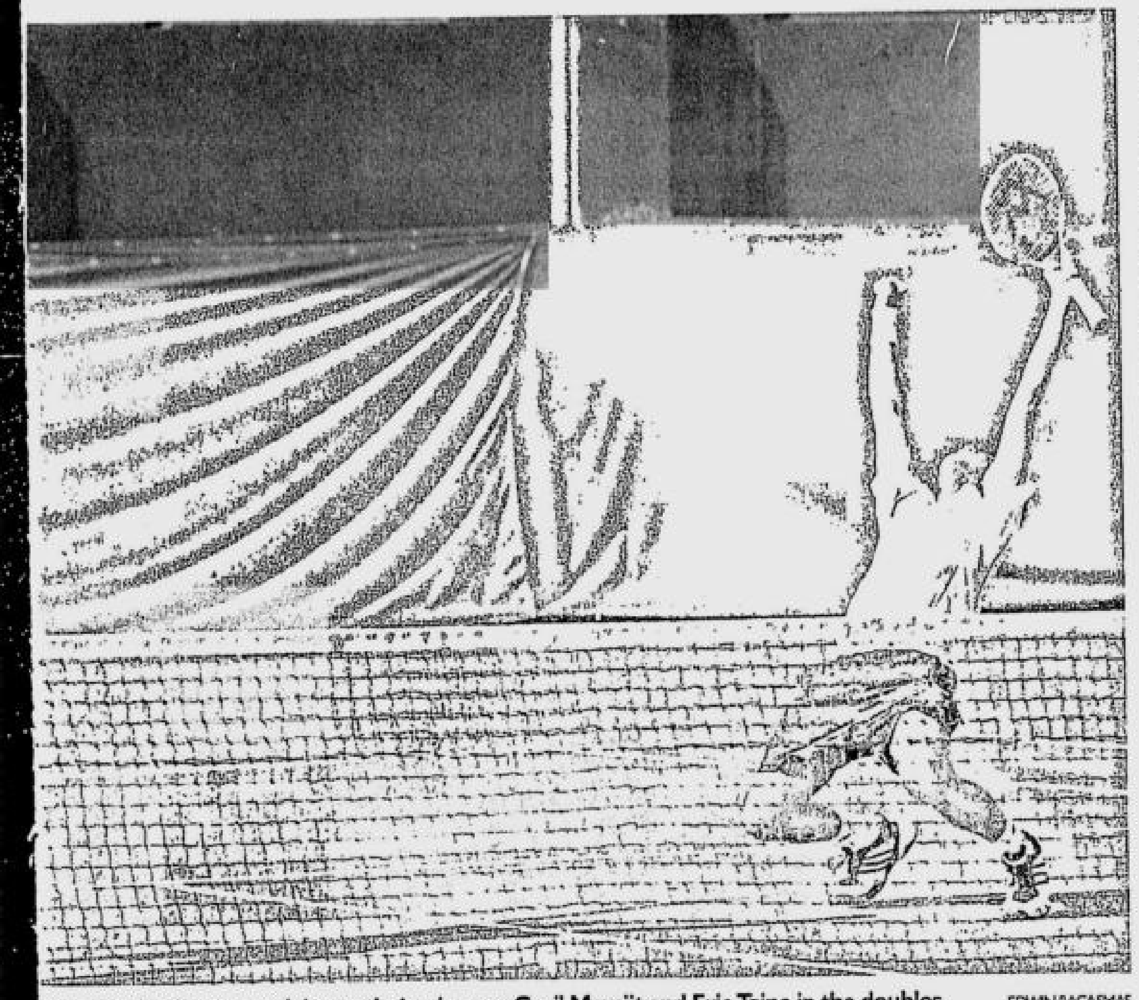
Lang, who captured the gold in the men's individual compound, led the Malaysians to a 248-245 win over Earl Benjamin Yap, Adam Jimenez, Gil Gabriel and Itus Carag in the final round.

The Filipino archers wound up as overall champions on the strength of having one more bronze medals with two than the Malaysians. Both countries finished with three golds and two silvers each.

Indonesia, once the dominant country in the sport, had two golds, four silvers and one bronze for third.

Athens Olympian Jasmine Figueroa went home empty-handed after her partnership with Rachelle Anne Cabral, Edwina Delos Reyes and Catherine Santos lost in the first round of the team recurve to Thailand.

With a report from Jose Paolo Lacdao



Sonchat Ratiwatana celebrate their win over Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino in the doubles. EDWIN BACASMAS

ia booters claim bronze

s blame Singaporean referee for defeat

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phase, put premium on defense as Indonesia launched a futile effort to tie the match in the final 10 minutes.

"This is a good win for us," said Norizan Bin Bakar, whose team duplicated the finish of the Malaysian side in the 2003 Games in Vietnam. "Shaari proved he deserves to be captain of this team."

Peter Withe contested two non-handball calls from the referee when his side was relentlessly attacking inside the box in the final two minutes.

"I think we had a lot of good chances those we were not able to convert, aside from that non-call by the referee," said Withe, who had to be pacified after he rushed into the field to confront Singaporean referee Maniam Ganesan after the game.

Ganesan was the same referee who officiated the RP-Malaysia clash that was also marred by his questionable calls that supposedly favored the Malaysians.

Vietnam and Thailand were playing for the title at press time.

Indonesia had the first clear chance in the 8th minute when Jumadi Abdi's 25-yard drive was denied by the fingertips of Malaysian keeper Amar Bin Sudar, before the Malays threatened with striker Rudie Bin Ramli and Surendren Rasiah hitting headers that sailed inches off the bar in the 20th and 21st minutes, respectively.

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ahead of Thailand in the gold medal race.

Thai Pechai Soyota, Athens Olympic bronze medalist, beat RP's Romeo Brin, 28-23. But the crowd started to react again because there was this open perception that many of the punches Brin had landed did not register on the scoreboard.

In the penultimate bout, welterweight Mark Jason Millegen lost a mismatch to Thailand's Non Boojumnong, 15-30, and fans applauded the Thai on his way back to the dugout.

Then came the final and fateful bout, between hometown hero Reynaldo Galido and Suriya Prasathinphimai in the middleweight bracket.

Delight turned into instant disaster early in the bout when, as confirmed by broadcaster Ed Picson who worked the fight, the "Thai was getting points without even throwing punches."

* * *

This reporter, with the aid and assistance of Cedelf P. Tupas, our able correspondent, filed a second story.

Here's the opening paragraph of that report: "The Philippines rode on the hardy female fighters who scored a golden harvest here to capture the Southeast Asian Games boxing championship at the close of competition that was cut short after a riotous crowd started pelting the arena with coins and assorted debris last night."

In newspaper practice, they call this a remat for the final edition.

Continued that second report: "The final bout between local boy Reynaldo Galido and Thailand's Suriya Prasathinphimai was cut short with the Thai ahead, 11-4, after the crowd threatened to riot over perceived unfair scoring.

The RP coaching staff decided to retire Galido and surrender the final gold, according to the Aiba technical delegate Shaakill Durrani of Pakistan.

"Rep. Monico Puentevella said he ordered an abrupt end to the final bout to prevent a possible riot."

Puentevella, who deeply knows how gentle, charming Negrenses react to cheating in sports, said the RP team had to graciously surrender the final bout to prevent a disaster.

Of course, damage had already been done. Not a few fans, including members of the media situated close to the boxing ring, later complained of getting hit by coins and other debris on different parts of the body.

How odd Filipino fighters had to be victims of the so-called hometown decisions right in their very backyard.

Blame was later put on scheming Thai agents who suddenly descended on Bacolod and were seen wining and dining several boxing judges on the eve of the finals.

One RP boxing man said his people had witnessed these Thais passing wads and wads of dollars during the blowout.

And to think that the dreaded president of the International Amateur Boxing Federation (Aiba), Prof. Anwar Chowdry, did not make it to Bacolod.

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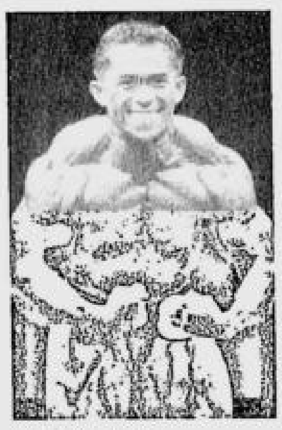
Musclemen flex might, nail 2 wins

By Don Eric G. Sta. Rosa

MICHAEL BORENAGA AND ALFREDO TRAZONA accounted for two bodybuilding gold medals yesterday to boost the Philippine cause in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the GSIS Theatre in Pasay City.

Borenaga, a first-time competitor in the SEAG, garnered a perfect score of 10 as he upset defending bantamweight champion Sazali bin Abd Samad of Malaysia.



BORENAGA

Samad finished with the silver while Thai Thongpan Lammana ended up with the bronze.

"I did my best for the Philippines," the 28 year-old, Aklan-born but Malabon-raised Borenaga said in Filipino. "I dedicate this win to my wife Suzette and to my family."

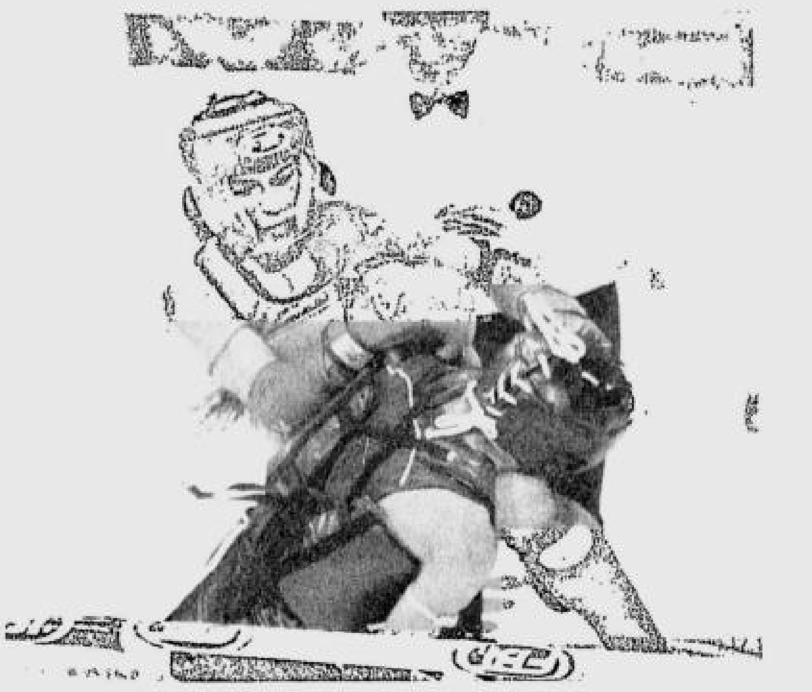
The Bohol-native Trazona also had an immaculate score of 10 in topping the weltwer division, beating Vietnam's Giap Tri Dung and Thai Panupong Prapteep.

"*Kayang kaya ang kalaban* (It was easy)," said the 34-year-old Navyman, who won a bronze in the light middlet class during the Vietnam SEAG.

Borenaga and Trazona, who train at the Foxx and SuperSharp gyms, respectively, now plan to focus on the bigger Asian stage.

Vietnam, the defending team champion, finished with one gold, a silver and two bronze medals with the lone gold courtesy of Pham Van Mach in the light flyweight category.

Singaporeans Simon Chua and Ibrahim bin Silat came out on top in the lightweight and flyweight categories, while Thailand's Sitthi Charoenrith claimed the light middle gold.



RP BET Roland Claro Roland Castro (facing camera) outclasses his Thai for for the gold in the lightweight division. RYAN LIM

RP winds up muay stint with 3 victories

THE PHILIPPINES CAME UP WITH three golds and barely lost the overall title to Thailand in its native sport of muay thai in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday at the GSIS Gym in Pasay City.

The Thais also wound up with three golds and nosed out the Filipinos in the overall medal tally by finishing with more silvers, 4-3.

Showing impeccable grace and form, the RP bets scored perfect 10s in two women's Waikru events through Victoria Agbayani and Cristina Custodio in the 54 kg division and Claire Cadampog and Lianne Flameno in the 57 kg class.

Waikru or respects to the teacher, is the pre-fight ritual involving a sequence of synchronized and rhythmic body movements and postures to honor the fighter's coach.

Angkana Tangthai and Chawanya Suriya with 9.6 points took the silver in the 54 kg division, while Thais Jirapan Pinmaneewong and Pornipa Muadtham tied for second in the 57 kg class.

In the combat events, top RP bet Roland Castro whitewashed Thai Uchaim Yingram in the lightweight finals.

Meanwhile, the stylish duo of Opas Sualek and Taweesak Mennoi of Thailand bagged the men's waikru event, scoring 9.8 points.

Filipinos Rogelio Garganera and Davis Panisigan (9.66) bagged the silver, while Laos' Mashopha—Khammone Khonavanh tandem (8.10)—took the bronze.

Three-time World muay champ Brent Velasco settled for the silver, bowing to Thailand's Mongkhom Punpiboon in the bantam finals.

Karla Tricia V. Magno

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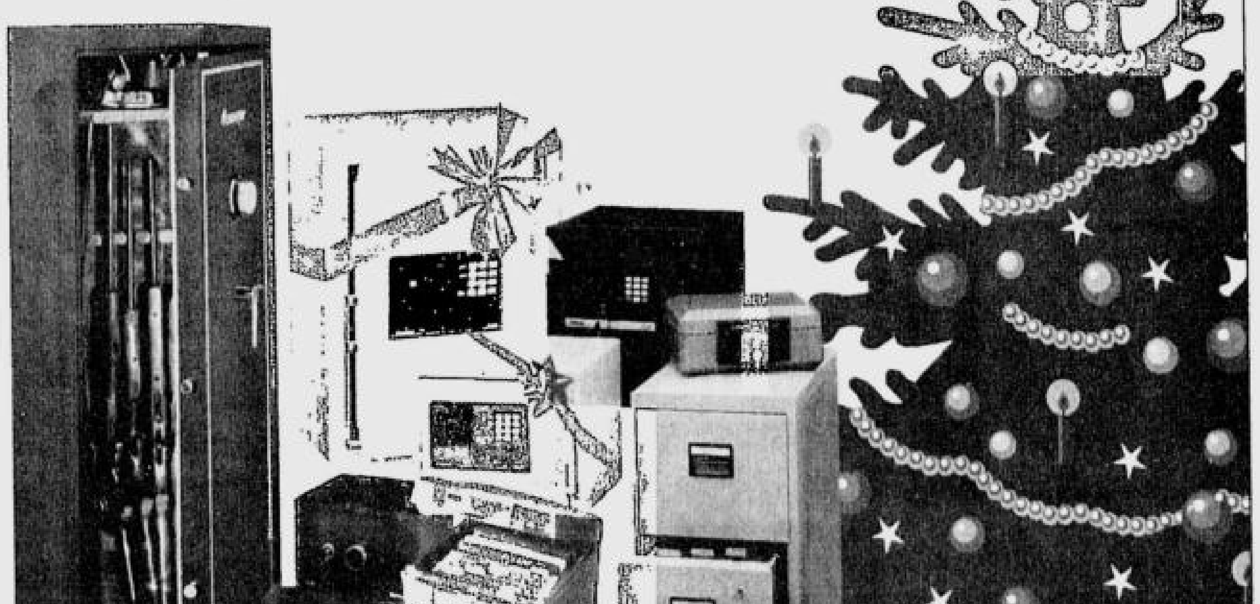

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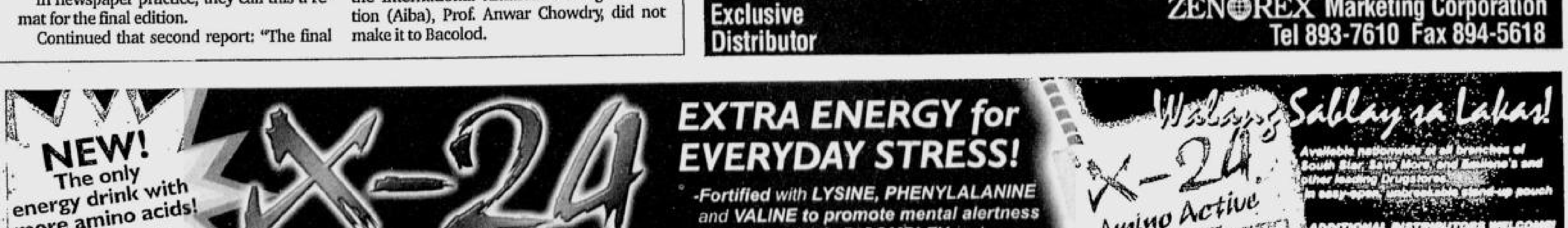

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RP arnis expert behind Vietnam's strong showing

IT WAS FILIPINO HOSPITALITY AT its best. Then again maybe not.

Arnis Philippines boosted Vietnam's stock in the arnis competition of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games by lending one of its members to help train the Vietnamese. Vietnam Olympic Committee asked for Filipino expertise.

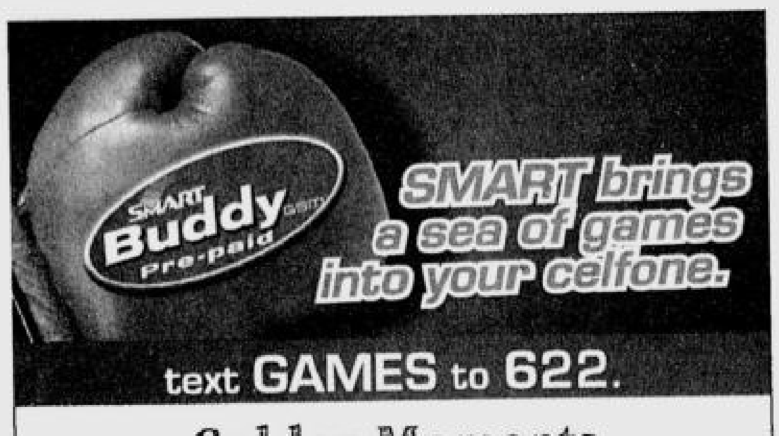
Roel Gatmundon, a native of Quezon province, spent nine months in Vietnam, which battled Philippines tooth and nail in arnis in the tournament that ended yesterday.

As a result, the Vietnamese matched the two-gold, two-silver effort by the Filipinos.

"Of course I feel bad that our countrymen are losing," Gatmundon said.

Gatmundon, however, believes that, whatever the outcome, it's a win-win situation for the Philippines.

"We are able to impart arnis, a native Filipino martial arts, to other countries and that is a big plus for arnis overall," he said. *Meysil Yamat*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Golden Moments

Perfect 10s

THE JUDGES THOUGHT THEY were a perfect 10. Behind a wildly-cheering Filipino crowd, bodybuilders Michael Borenaga, a first time competitor, and Alfredo Trazona flexed their way to the top of the competition with gold medal wins at the Bodybuilding competitions held yesterday at the GSIS Theatre.

Borenaga scored a perfect 10 points in the bantamweight category when he upset defending champion Sazali bin Abd Samad of Malaysia.

Trazona's decision to move down from light middleweight to welterweight proved fruitful as he also garnered a perfect ten from the judges besting Vietnam's Giap Tri Dung. *Don Eric G. Sta. Rosa*

The Jig

CECIL MAMIIT'S DANCE WAS so addicting that two Thais wearing their national costume also danced with him in his victory.

The 5-foot-8 world No. 211 Mamiit, who was lured by sports official to play for the country for a long time already before deciding to compete now, outlasted top seed Danai Udomchoke of Thailand in a marathon three-set match to clinch the men's singles gold, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, for his second in the tournament following his victory in the team play.

"This is just a simple way for me to repay my countrymen for all the love they've given me," the second-seeded Mamiit said. *Musong R. Castillo/Apolinario Mapacpac*

Surprise

ODDSMAKERS WERE SAYING that the marathon title is doubtful for RP women's but the men's are definitely sure to win it.

Blistered feet and all, Christabel Martes was determined enough to save the Philippines from a shut-out in the last event of athletics by ruling the women's marathon and make up for the shock loss of Allan Ballester and Roy Vence in the men's side and give the RP track and field team a decent enough finish. Martes timed two hours, 47 minutes and seven seconds for the gold medal ahead of Feri Marince Subnafeu of Indonesia (2:54.23). *Hazel B. Sanculi*

JUDO CONTROVERSY

Foul destroys RP bid

By Brian Ochoa, Cebu Daily News and Marc Anthony Camasura

RUTH Duga-duga (left) looks surprised after being slapped with the penalty. CDN PHOTO/JUNJIE MENDOZA

CEBU CITY—THE PHILIPPINES LOST A FIFTH judo gold and the overall title in the sport yesterday after Thailand won the women's -78kg category in controversial fashion in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Mandaue City sports complex here.

Ruth Duga-duga, the country's only finalist yesterday, battled Thailand's Patchareee Pichapit to what seemed like a draw when—at the end of the match—the referees slapped the RP judoka with a foul, making the Thai the automatic winner.

A stunned crowd and an angry coaching staff did not bother to hide how they felt.

"It's okay if we lose fair and square but this is no way to lose," said coach Melvin Magata amid a rain of boos and catcalls that filled the coliseum.

The win not only gave Thailand the gold, but it allowed the Thais—and Vietnam—to vault past the Philippines in the overall race in the sport.

Thailand finished with four golds, five silvers and six bronzes to finish No. 1. Vietnam followed with four golds, two silvers and eight bronzes. The Philippines finished third by virtue of two less bronze medals than the Vietnamese.

The Philippines could have won a fifth gold and the overall title had the referees not slapped the penalty, which—according to the coaching staff—claim after they declared the match over.

"There should have been no more penalty after the game was declared over," said an upset coach Annie Pedroso.

Duga-duga was coming off a scary victory over Vietnam in the semifinal round.

Vietnamese judoka Thi Anh Ngoc Nguyen suffered a serious neck injury after the match when Duga-duga scored an ippon at the 4:13 mark. She landed head first and was unconscious after the game.

"There are only two things that could have happened to her," said Dr. Desiree Gahi, one of the members of the medical staff at the venue. "She might have suffered a serious cord injury or hopefully just an injury caused by stress."

She was brought immediately to Chong Hua hospital for further checkup.

"I was scared because I thought she would die," a tearful Duga-duga said after the semifinal match.

Franco Teves (-55kg) and Daniel Pedro (-60kg) bagged bronzes each.

Filipino Gold Medalists

AQUATICS-DIVING
—Shiela Mae Perez, W 1M individual springboard
—Shiela Mae Perez, W 3M individual springboard
—Niño Carog and Zardo Domenios, M 3M synchronized springboard
—Cesell Domenios and Shiela Mae Perez, W 3M synchronized springboard
—Kevin Kong and Ryan Fabriga, M 10M synchronized platform
AQUATICS-SWIMMING
—Miguel Mendoza, M 1500M freestyle
—Miguel Molina, M 200M breaststroke
—Miguel Molina, M 200M individual medley
—Miguel Molina, M 400M individual medley
ARCHERY
—Amaya Paz, W individual compound
—Jennifer Chan, Amaya Paz, Joann Tabañag and Abbigail Tindugan, W team compound
—Marvin Cordero, Christian Cubilla, Mark Javier and Florante Matan, M team recurve
ARNIS
—Anna Joy Fernandez, W full contact -52Kg
—Catherine Ballenas, Aireen Parong and Rochelle Quirol, W team anyo
—Kelvin Celis, Nathan Ben Dominguez and Glenn Llamador, M team anyo
ATHLETICS
—Jimar Aing, M 400M
—Henry Dagmil, M long jump
—Arniel Ferrera, M hammer throw
—Danilo Fresnido, M javelin throw
—Rene Herrera, M 3000M steeplechase
—Mercedita Manipol, W 10000M
—Christabel Martes, W marathon
—Marestella Torres, W long jump
—Ernie Candelario, Jimar Aing, Julius Nierras and Kashus Perona, M 4x400M relay
BASEBALL
—Men's team
BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER
—Ronato Alcano, M 15-ball rotation singles
—Rubilen Amit, W 8-ball singles
—Rubilen Amit, W 9-ball singles
—Alex Pagulayan, M 8-ball singles
—Ronato Alcano and Leonardo Andam, M 15-ball rotation doubles
—Lee Vann Corteza and Antonio Gabica, M 8-ball doubles
—Dennis Orcollo and Alex Pagulayan, M 9-ball doubles
—Leonardo Andam, Joven Alba, Alex Pagulayan and Felipe Tauro Jr., M snooker team
BODYBUILDING
—Michael Borenaga, M bantamweight
—Alfredo Trazona Jr., M welterweight
BOWLING
—Liza Clutario, W masters
—Markwin Tee, M masters
—Ma. Cecilia Yap, W singles
—Ernesto Gatchalian and Christian Jan Suarez, M doubles
BOXING
—Annie Albania, W flyweight
—Alice Kate Aparri, W pinweight
—Genebert Basadre, M lightweight
—Jouvilet Chilem, W bantamweight
—Juanito Magliquian Jr., M pinweight
—Mitchel Martinez, W lightweight
—Harry Tañamor, M light flyweight
—Joan Tipon, M bantamweight
CYCLING
—Marites Bitbit, W cross-country MTB
—Alfie Catalan, M 4Km individual pursuit
DANCESPORT
—Michael Mendoza and Belinda Adora, Latin American dance
—Rico Rosima and Filomena Salvador, standard dance
EQUESTRIAN
—Joker Arroyo, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, Toni Leviste and Juan Ramon Lanza, team show jumping
FENCING
—Melly Angeles, W individual epee
—Walbert Mendoza, M individual sabre
—Veena Tessa Nuestro, W individual foil
—Denver Atienza, Rolando Canlas Jr., Ramil Endriano and Emerson Segui, M team foil
—Richard Gomez, Armando Vernal, Avelino Victorino Jr. and Wilfredo Vizcayno Jr., M team epee
GOLF
—Juvic Pagunsan, M individual
—Antonio Asistio II, Jay Bayron, Artemio Murakami and Juvic Pagunsan, M team
GYMNASTICS
—Roel Ramirez, M individual artistic gymnastics floor exercises
—Roel Ramirez, M individual artistic gymnastics vault
JUDO
—John Baylon, M -81Kg
—Helen Dawa, W -45Kg
—Gilbert Ramirez, M -73Kg
—Karen Ann Solomon, W -70Kg
KARATE-DO
—Gretchen Malalad, W individual kumite +60Kg
—Marna Pabillore, W individual kumite -53Kg
—Nelson Pacalso, M individual kumite -65Kg
LAWN BOWLS
—Ronald Lising, M singles
MUAY
—Roland Claro, M lightweight
—Victoria Agbayani and Cristina Custodio, W Wai Kru 54-57Kg
—Claire Cadampog and Lianne Flameno, W Wai Kru 51-54Kg
PENCAK SILAT
—Marniel Dimla, M class F 70-75Kg
ROWING
—Benjamin Tolentino Jr., M lightweight single sculls
—Jose Rodriguez and Benjamin Tolentino Jr., M coxless pairs
—Alvin Amposta and Benjamin Tolentino Jr., M lightweight doubles scull
SAILING
—German Paz, M boardsailing Olympic class
SHOOTING
—Juanito Angelas, M practical shotgun
—Paul Brian Rosario, M individual skeet
—Patricio Bernardo, Darius Alex Hizon and Paul Brian Rosario, M team skeet
SOFTBALL
—Men's team
—Women's team
TAEKWONDO
—Kirstie Elaine Alora, W featherweight
—Donald David Geisler, M lightweight
—Tshomlee Go, M bantamweight
—John Paul Lizardo, M finweight
—Mary Antoinette Rivero, W lightweight
—Esther Marie Singson, W bantamweight
TENNIS
—Cecil Mamiit, M singles
—Eric Taino and Riza Zalameda, mixed doubles
—Johnny Arcilla, Cecil Mamiit, Eric Taino and Patrick John Tierro, M team
TRADITIONAL BOAT RACE
—M 1000M 10A-Side team
—M 1000M 20A-Side team
—W 1000M 10A-Side team
—M 500M 10A-Side team
—M 500M 20A-Side team
—W 500M 10A-Side team
WRESTLING
—Jimmy Angana, M 60-66Kg
—Gemma Silverio, W 55-59Kg
—Marcus Valda, M 84-96Kg
—Cristina Villanueva, W 48-51Kg
—Francis Villanueva, M 96-120Kg
WUSHU
—Rene Catalan, M sanshou 48Kg
—Edward Folayang, M sanshou 70Kg
—Pedro Quina, M taolu-nanquan
—Rhea May Rifani, W sanshou 52Kg
—Arvin Ting, M taolu-daoshu
—Vicky Ting, W taolu-jianshu
—Willy Wang, M taolu-jianshu
—Willy Wang, M taolu-qiangshu
—Aida Yang, W taolu-daoshu
—Richard Ng and Lester Pimentel, M taolu-duilian
—Vicky Ting and Aida Yang, W taolu-duilian
Compiled by: Sarah Morales

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SUMMIT Reach for it.

Pencak wins 1st SEAG gold

By Jonas Rey Panerio
Cebu Daily News

CEBU CITY—FINALLY, PENCAK SILAT HAS A gold medal.

After years of waiting and after two realistic hopes blown away, Marniel Dimla, the 13-year veteran who had the slimmest chance of bagging the country's first gold in the sport, put the country at the highest step of the winner's podium yesterday in the Southeast Asain Games at the Cebu Coliseum here.

Competing in the 70-75kg category, Dimla used his coach's knowledge of the opponent to the fullest, pulling off a stunning upset against top ranked Dinh Cong Son of Vietnam, 5-0, to end the country's gold drought in pencak silat.

"All my prayers were heard," Dimla said in Filipino.

Team skipper Christopher Yabut saw his bid nosedive after being on the receiving end of a 5-0 upset hammered out by Vietnamese Tran Van Toan in the men's 50-55kg finals.

Annaliza Bea lost her match to another Vietnamese, Huynh Thi Thu Hong in the women's 50-55kg class.

Dimla also made good use of the inside information from foreign head coach Suhartono.

"We already know the style of Son since I trained him from 1995-2000," said Suhartono. "I just told Marniel to be careful of Son's sweeping technique."

In sepak takraw, the country absorbed two defeats in the double regu event that ended its campaign on a low note.

Thailand drubbed the women's team, 21-9, 21-9, after which Indonesia took its turn by administering a 21-13, 21-18 victory.

The speak takraw squad ended up with a silver from the women's squad and a bronze from the men's squad—both in the hoop event. *With reports from Calvin Cordova*

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CHESS (Tagaytay International Convention Center, Tagaytay City)
9 a.m.—Standard (men's and women's singles finals)
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3 p.m.—Men's finals
4:30 p.m.—Women's finals
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23RD Southeast Asian Games
November 27 - December 5, 2005
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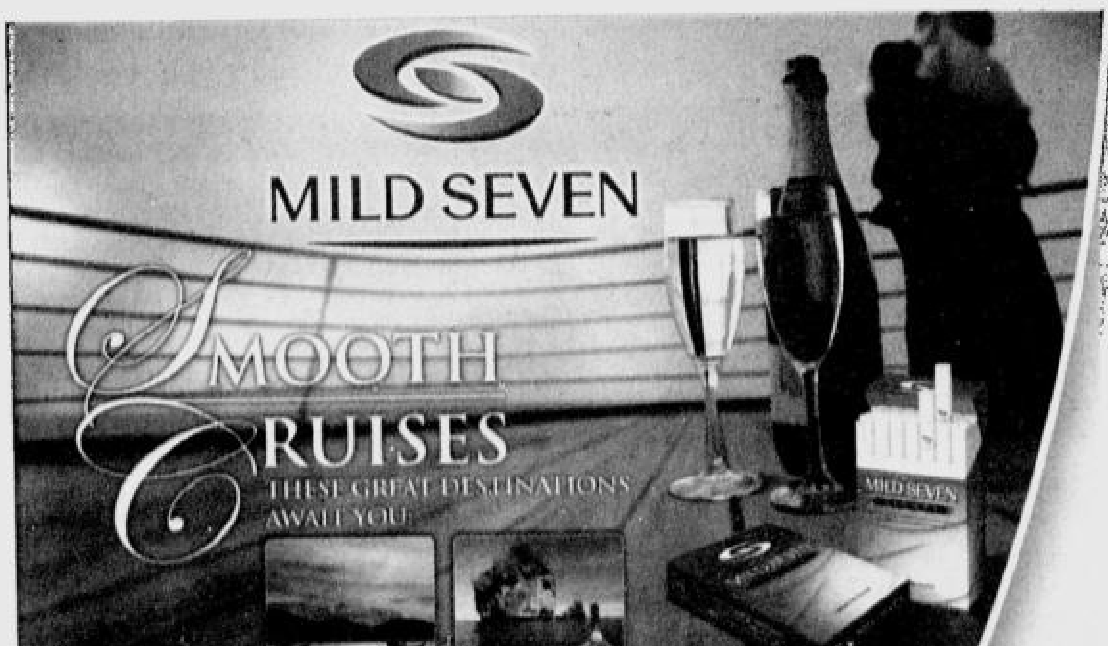
B'volley, billiards on ABC-5

THE FINAL matches in women's beach volleyball and billiards will be shown today on ABC Sports, the lead broadcaster of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games. Beach volleyball will be aired at 9 to 11 in the morning while gold-medal matches in billiards begin at 9 p.m. until midnight. The finals of the badminton competitions will be replayed at 3 p.m.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Bayron foils Juvic at N'woods

JAY BAYRON UPSTAGED SOUTHEAST ASIAN Games teammate Juvic Pagunsan to win the individual title, while Tarlac-Paniqui bagged the team crown in the "Ka Eliong" memorial and intertown golf tournament at the Royal Northwoods Golf Club in San Rafael, Bulacan, recently.

Bayron scored 80 points from rounds of 40-40 under the Stableford scoring system to nip the fancied Pagunsan by one in the event held in memory of the late Cornelio Pancho, better known as "Ka Eliong" and the prime mover of the construction of the Royal Northwoods Golf Club.

Pagunsan finished with 38-41 for a 79.

Bayron and Pagunsan also powered the Tarlac-Panique to the team title with a 227-point total.

Ronaldo Cadayong totaled 68 to count for the team in the four-to-play, three-to-count event.

Last year's champion Pampanga-Lubao, with Jun Bernis at the helm, had 218 to finish second.

Omar Dungca, last year's individual champion, led Lubao with 73 while Bernis and Ferdie Auzo each scored a 72.

Isabela, led by Bong Igaya and Chito Laureta's identical 60 and Dennis Nicomedes' 59, topped Class A with 179, beating Baliuag-3. San Rafael, led by Toots de Jesus' 59, ruled Class B (141).

BAYRON

2nd wins for Tribu, Taguig

ANTIPOLO CITY—SKYGO/SIRLITZ-BACKED Tribu Sugbu and old rival Forward Taguig hurdled their respective rivals to stay unbeaten in the Nature's Spring-Rep. Ronnie Puno Cup basketball tournament at the Antipolo Auditorium.

Paced by Doroteo Almacin Jr., the Tribu cagers of businessmen Lito Gillamac Jr. and Mario King crushed Atips, 107-80, for their second straight victory in the tournament supported by Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil and Molten.

Mayor Freddie Tinga's Forward Taguig Squad kept pace with Tribu by downing Rep. Vic Sumulong's Ex-PBA Stars, 85-81.

In the other games, Boysen Phils.-backed PICE-Rizal shocked Spring Cooking Oil, 109-102, while Homer Cagers whipped Bacchus-Metro Manila, 95-81.

Almacin fired 16 points to lead Tribu, which is preparing early for the third National Basketball Conference season next year.

Dave Javier exploded for 21 points as PICE-Rizal outgunned the Cooking Oil Masters in a high-scoring game.

In SEA Games, not all that glitters is gold

AS THE 23RD SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES end today, it's worth reflecting on what will be remembered best when the region's finest athletes go home.

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

Second best is no longer good enough? Not true. While silver and bronze may not glitter as brightly as gold, they still do glitter, a fact that seemed lost in the mad rush for medals. Just making the SEA Games team is already a great feat, and qualifying for a final game or race, is even more extraordinary.

Still, I look unkindly at the allegations by Thailand that host Philippines cheated in order to emerge victorious in these Games. That is so unfair to the Filipino athletes. By accusing the neutral judges and adjudicators of rigging the results of the games, these misguided Thais showed poor sportsmanship and disregarded the accepted maxim in sports that "the judges' decision is final." These Thai officials underestimated the ability of the Filipino athletes.

As women's 8-ball singles champion Rubilen Amit said: "We came to the SEA Games well-prepared. We trained hard and got the needed support from Sir Putch (Aristeo Puyat, the billiards godfather) and Sir Ernie (Ernesto Fajardo, president of billiards and snooker). Of course, we were also motivated by the hometown crowd who inspired us to win games like this."

On hindsight, the 23rd SEA Games began with symbols of peace and unity, with some 4,000 athletes from 11 countries bearing flags signifying friendship. But a few days later, when host Philippines was already enjoying a comfortable early lead, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra spoiled the celebration by claiming "unfair officiating in the Games." Another Thai official, Jaruk Areerajukaran, secretary general of the Thailand Olympic Committee, also complained that host Philippines had robbed Thai athletes of their victories in several sports, including boxing, gymnastics and taekwondo.

"It's hard to win at the Games since the hosts are cheating," Jaruk said, adding that Thailand would not be able to win its target of 110 to 118 gold medals.

Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Thaksin was merely stressing his "view" that the spirit of the Games was more important than piling up medals.

In my long years in sports, I have always said that athletes and team officials are expected to play by the rules, to be pure of heart and noble in purpose. Respect for others are traditional values in civilized sports.

Local weightlifter Alfonsito Aldanete is an athlete whose action is worth emulating.

A few days before the 23rd SEA Games, the 32-year-old Aldanete figuréd in a motorcycle accident. He was hurt so badly that he had contemplated on not taking part in the competitions anymore. But he finally decided to join and, despite showing bruises on the left side of his face and arm, Aldanete went on to finish second behind Thailand's Khunchai Nuchpum in the 94-kg division. I salute Aldanete and all the other athletes for the raw courage and hard work that have brought them to these Games. They have met the challenge and did their countries proud.

* * *

REMEMBERING LOUIE TABUENA. His name may not ring a bell to the present generation of sports fans, but the late Luis "Louie" Tabuena will be remembered by many longtime basketball and boxing diehards.

Tabuena died of cancer of the liver last Nov. 23 at the Makati Medical Center. He was 78.

Tabuena played for Letran's famous Murder Inc. basketball team which won the NCAA title in 1950. As GAB chair in 1975, he hosted the memorable Thrilla in Manila boxing classic that pitted Muhammad Ali against Smokin' Joe Frazier.

Tabuena was born in Sorsogon but raised in Manila. He started playing basketball in Sta. Ana, Manila, and made famous the two-hand overhead shot. After the Pacific War, Tabuena played for FEU, then transferred to Letran in 1947. He also played for Manila Terminal and Philippine Air Lines in the Micaa and later served as GM of the then Manila International Airport.

He is survived by his wife Conchita, children and brothers Conrado and Ramon.

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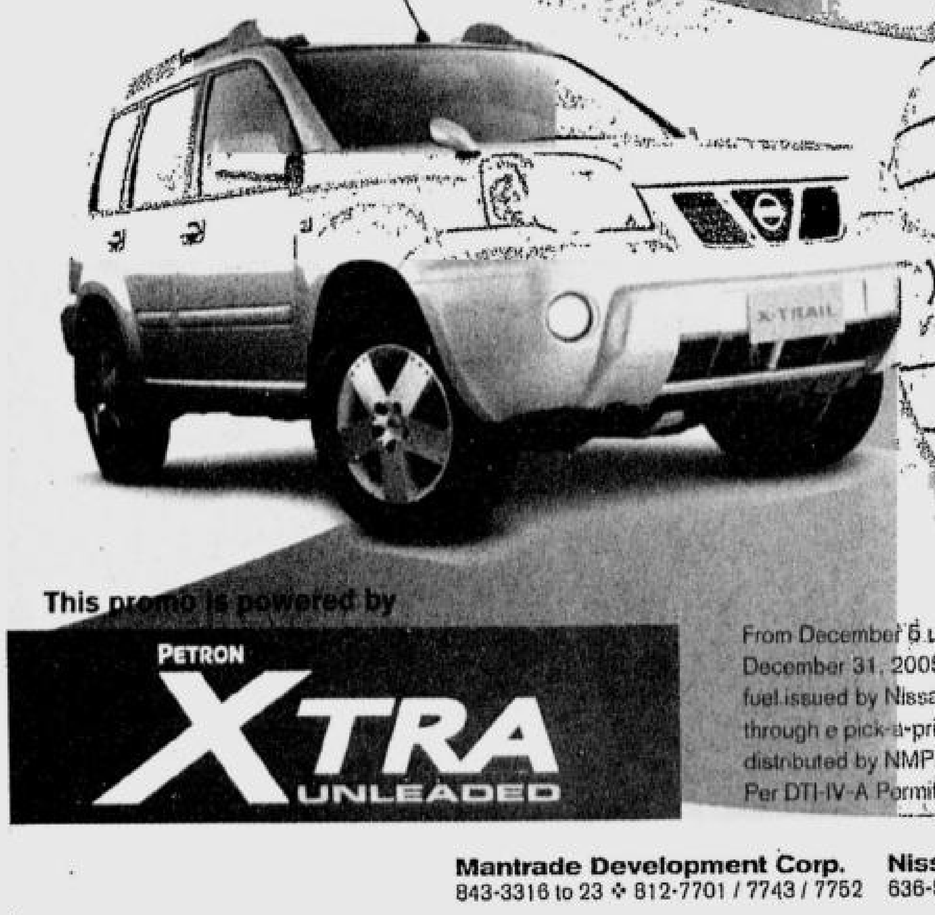

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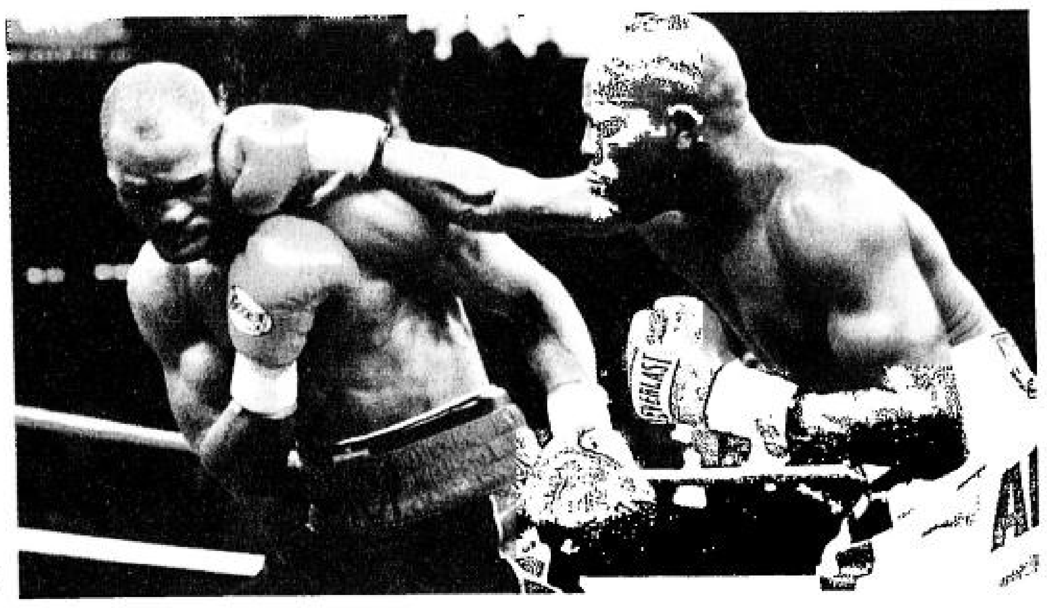

REPEAT Jermain Taylor (right) lands a punch on former champion Bernard Hopkins of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the final round of their rematch at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, Dec. 3. Taylor, who previously beat Hopkins by split decision, won the rematch by unanimous decision.

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Grizzlies make it 5 straight

HOUSTON—DAMON Stoudamire scored 24 points and Memphis hit a franchise-record 15 3-pointers en route to routing Houston, 90-75, for its fifth straight victory in the National Basketball Association.

Memphis was 15-of-32 from 3-point range to break the team record of 13 set against Milwaukee last January. Stoudamire was 6-for-7 on 3-pointers and Bobby Jackson went 5-for-8, Jackson finished with a season-high 18 points.

Yao Ming led Houston with 29 points.

In other games, it was Toronto 95, New Jersey 82; Detroit 92, Chicago 79; Dallas 97, Charlotte 88; San Antonio 100, Philadelphia 91; Milwaukee 104, Orlando 84; Denver 101, Miami 99 and the Los Angeles Clippers 102, Cleveland 90.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Chris Bosh scored a season-high 29 points and Morris Peterson added 24 Saturday to lead the Toronto Raptors to their third win of the season and second road victory in two nights. *AP*

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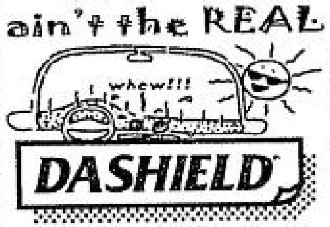

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Bata gets crack at P10m pot

FILIPINO EFREN "BATA" REYES DEFEATED countryman Marlon Manalo, 8-4, on Saturday (Sunday in Manila) to earn a crack at reigning champion Mike Sigel of the United States for the $1 million King of the Hill Shootout title in Orlando, Florida.

Reyes, who begged off from the SEA Games team to compete here, will be eyeing the whopping $200,000 (about P10.8 million) cash kitty in the best-of-three races to 8 and and the title King of the Hill.

Reyes struggled in the early going against Manalo but won five games in a row to top the round-robin series that selected the challenger to Sigel.

Reyes is already assured of the runner-up prize of $100,000 (about P5.4 million).

As the final round began, even Francisco "Django" Bustamante had a chance to muddle up the race until a loss to Finish Mika "The Iceman" Immonen, 3-8, dashed his bid.

"I'm happy to be playing Sigel tomorrow, said Reyes, who won three of four matches going to the final round. "My family and my relatives will be happy if I win, too," he joked.

"I have wanted to play Sigel for a long time. He hasn't played for a while," said Reyes.

Manalo, undefeated through the first three days of play and the first three rounds of action Saturday, fell to bossom-buddy Francisco "Django" Bustamante in a hard-fought battle that included a controversial call, but won, 8-7.

Bustamante, who handed Reyes his only loss of the day, said he hopes to see his friend Bata become the king tomorrow. *Marlon Bernardino*

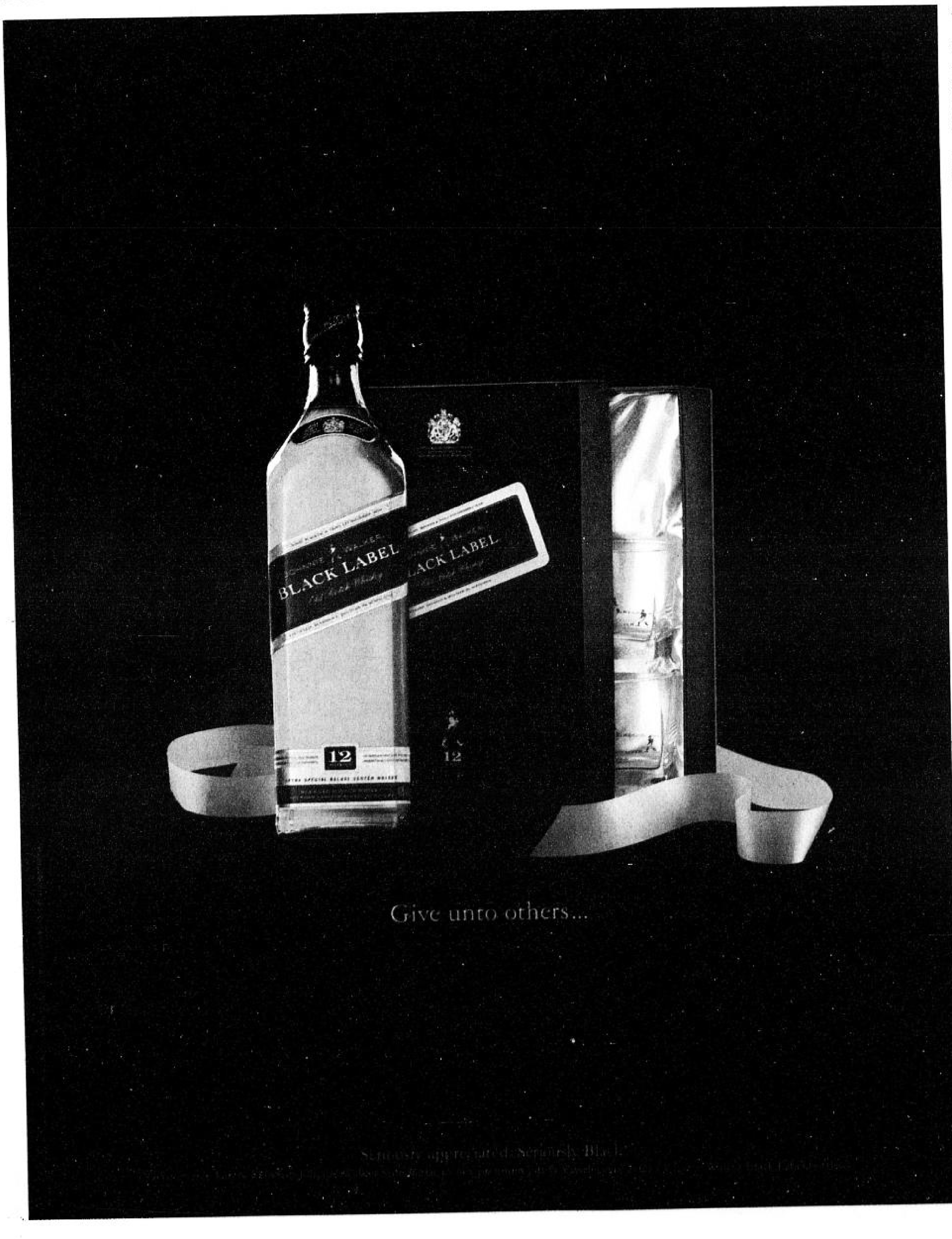
SPORTSWATCH

Roligon 5-cocker on today

THE SHOWDOWN of cockfighting champions begins today at Roligon Mega Cockpit when the "Incredibol Na, Apordabol Pa 5-Cock Derby" unfolds at 5 p.m. featuring 82 exciting fights. The list of participants include former World Slasher Cup champions Boy Marso and Rey Briones, Jeric Junio, Allan Siaco, Rep. Ompong Plaza, Bing Paras, Abraham Bernales, Noel Zoleta of Quezon, Mangzee Farm, Danny Llao, Jun Carpina, Ronald Balgos, Gen. Acop, Rep. Manny Andaya and Ampil Brothers. The four-day cockfest hosted by Roligon owner Rolly Ligon stakes P2 million in cash prizes and a brand new Mazda. The second batch of 80 entries see action this Wednesday. Cockers and breeders may still join on Saturday, or field straight five cocks on Dec. 12. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812.

Three big derbies slated

THREE of the country's biggest cockfighting events next year have drawn the support of Thunderbird Power Feeds, even as the gamefowl industry leader has joined Cebu promoter Wakee Salud in presenting the P5 million Pre-Christmas 6-Cock Derby now ongoing at the Negros Coliseum. Thunderbird's Cockalbang Pista festival will again add glitter to the World Slasher Cup of Araneta Coliseum on Jan. 17, 19 and 21 hosted by Jorge "Nene" Araneta in cooperation with the Pintakasi of Champions Group. For derby inquiries, call the Uniprom office at 911-3101 or 911-2928. The P7 million Candelaria International 7-Cock Derby 2006 hosted by Chito Tinsay and promoted by the Iloilo Sportsmen, Inc. follows on Jan. 29 to Feb. 2. Entry fee is P48,000. Completing the triumvirate derby is Roligon Mega Cockpit's 16th Anniversary 6-Cock Derby hosted by Rolly Ligon in cooperation with Thunderbird Enertone, which offers a guaranteed prize of P4 million and a Toyota Innova for the fastest kill champion. Entry fee is P11,000. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638, 852-9812 or (0920) 950-9293



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'I felt very humiliated'

Laurice Guillen speaks for the first time about her departure from the FDCP

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

CONTROVERSIAL was filmmaker Laurice Guillen's departure as chair and chief executive officer of the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP).

According to a report, she was not formally informed that her appointment had not been renewed, and that she learned about it only at the launch of the 7th Cinemanila International Film Festival in October. In a speech made by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza that night at the Manila Hotel, it was announced that Rolando "Jackie" Atienza was the new FDCP head.

She has since remained mum on the issue. After the incident, she left for Tokyo for a seminar and then for Rome, where her latest film, "Santa Santita," was shown in the Asiaticafilmediale.

Fellow filmmaker Jose Javier Reyes was very vocal about his dismay: "There is such a thing as protocol, decorum and propriety. To be treated in a shabby fashion shows a lack of respect."

On Saturday, shortly after her return from Italy, Guillen sat down with INQUIRER Entertainment to set the record straight, being the straight-shooting woman that she is.

Are you still with the Cinemalaya?

Yes. I am the competition director.

There was a rumor that you would remain as vice-chair of the FDCP.

Wouldn't that be stupid? That would be a demotion. That's not true.

What's your status in the FDCP?

I am finished with the FDCP. After my term was over, whether I am retained or not, I preferred to move back to the private sector.

I am grateful that the President gave me the chance to serve. I gave my best in those three years. Now I can go back to what I really love doing—making films.

But, on the human level, I felt dismayed. I felt humiliated… publicly humiliated.

Was that why you left right after the announcement was made?

I had no choice. I was seated beside Eddie Romero.

He is the only living National Artist for Film and he was not even escorted to the place of honor at a major film event.

In the CCP, before the curtains rise, National Artists who are present are acknowledged and are applauded. Sadly, in the film industry, we haven't reached [that level of] civilized behavior.

According to Joey Reyes, the issue is protocol.

Well, it was absent that evening.

Did anyone reach out to you after the incident?

Some people called up after it came out in the papers and after some people who were outraged talked and talked… until it reached the ears of the President.

Some people might say it smacked of politics?

What politics? Let's not add politics into everything. This was pure and simple neglect. I think everybody who had anything to do with it, including the President, has apologized. All except the person who was supposed to tell me.

Who was?

Vic del Rosario.

LAURICE Guillen still smarts from the slap of a "public humiliation." JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

> After three years of giving her all, she thought she would get 'a thank you.'

ROUNDUP

Pitt to adopt Jolie's kids

BRAD Pitt with baby Zahara AP

LOS ANGELES—Brad Pitt is seeking to become the adoptive father of Angelina Jolie's children, the actor's publicist announced.

A legal petition seeking to change the names of the children to Zahara Jolie-Pitt and Maddox Jolie-Pitt was filed Friday in Los Angeles, publicist Cindy Guagenti said in a written statement to The Associated Press.

"We are confirming that Brad Pitt is in the process of becoming the adoptive father of both children," the statement said. "No further comment is being made." *AP*

Phillip's petition denied

THE LAS Piñas Regional Trial Court has denied for lack of merit the motion to file for demurrer by Phillip Salvador in relation to the estafa cases filed by his former partner, businesswoman Cristina Decena, against the actor last year.

Also charged with estafa is Phillip's older brother Ramon, according to an order signed by Judge Elizabeth Guray.

"Considering that both accused are charged with estafa committed through false pretense… the Court prefers to rule on the action after hearing the respective positions of the parties," the order stated.

A demurrer to evidence, said Guray, is an objection by one of the parties in an action, challenging the sufficiency of the body of evidence to sustain a verdict. *Marinel R. Cruz*

Pull over, please

PHOENIX—Vince Vaughn and Jennifer Aniston were pulled over by Scottsdale police earlier this week, and Vaughn was given a sobriety test, police said Thursday.

Vaughn wasn't cited for any violation after a preliminary breath test showed the actor's blood-alcohol level was below the legal impairment limit, Scottsdale police Sgt. Mark Clark said.

Aniston was divorced from Brad Pitt last month. Reports have swirled that Vaughn, 35, and Aniston, 36, are dating. *AP*

The Power of O

CHEER FACTOR

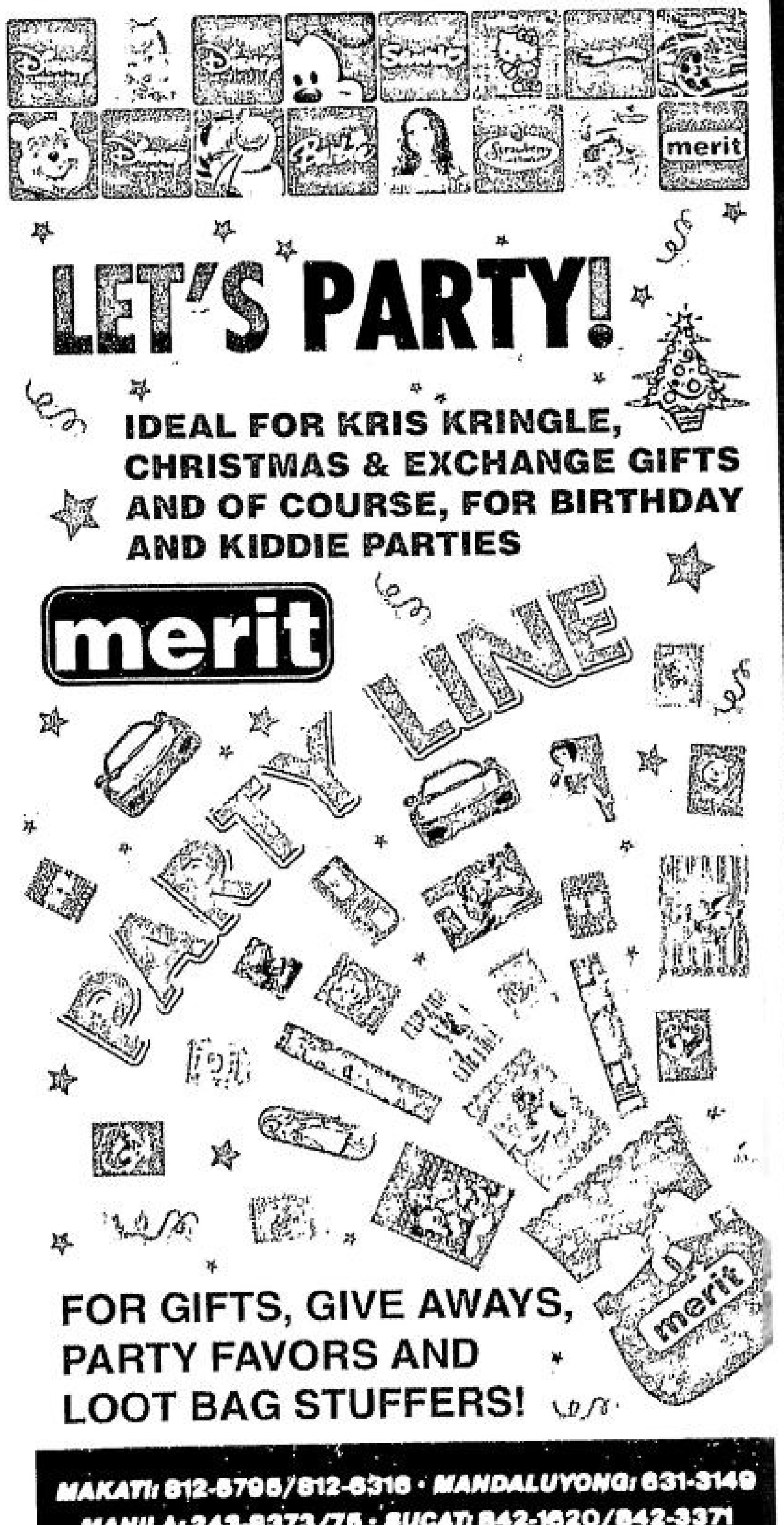
NEW YORK—DAVID LETTERMAN has learned the Power of Oprah: her appearance in his "Late Show" has earned him his biggest audience in more than a decade.

An estimated 13.5 million people stayed up late Thursday night to watch Winfrey's first visit to Letterman in 16 years, Nielsen Media Research said on Friday. Only three times has Letterman had a bigger audience on CBS—for his network premiere in 1993 and twice in 1994 in the midst of the Nancy Kerrigan-Tonya Harding ice skating melodrama.

Winfrey's appearance more than tripled Letterman's typical audience of 4.3 million viewers, Nielsen said.

Letterman escorted Winfrey

THE POWER/ A2-2



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4	EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

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1	GHOST INSIDE
2	FOUR BROTHERS
3 (DOLBY)	FLIGHT PLAN

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1	FOUR BROTHERS
2	HARI NG SABLAY
3 (DOLBY)	BLADE OF THE ROSE
4	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2	HARI NG SABLAY
3 (DOLBY)	CHICKEN LITTLE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	SPEED RUN-2
2	MAHAROT
3	UNFAITHFUL CONCUBINE
4	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	CHICKEN LITTLE
2	HARI NG SABLAY
3	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4	EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5	MAHAROT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	HARI NG SABLAY
2	CHICKEN LITTLE
3	THE MYTH
4	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	MAHAROT
2	BLADE OF THE ROSE

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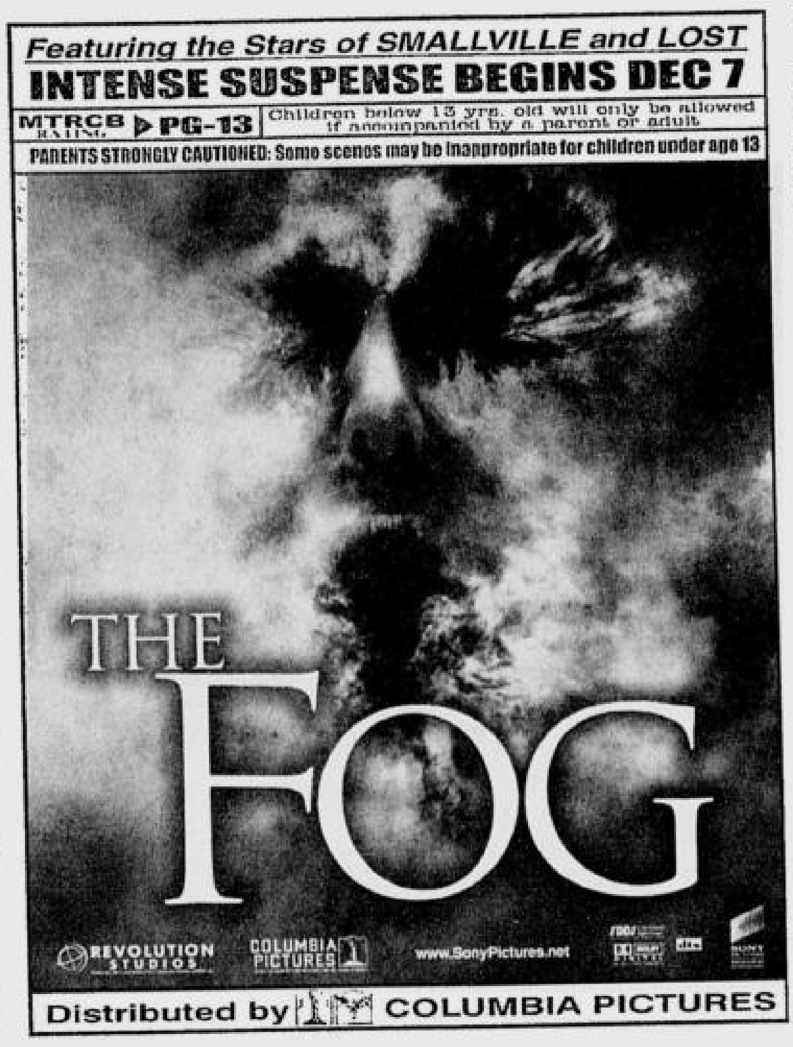

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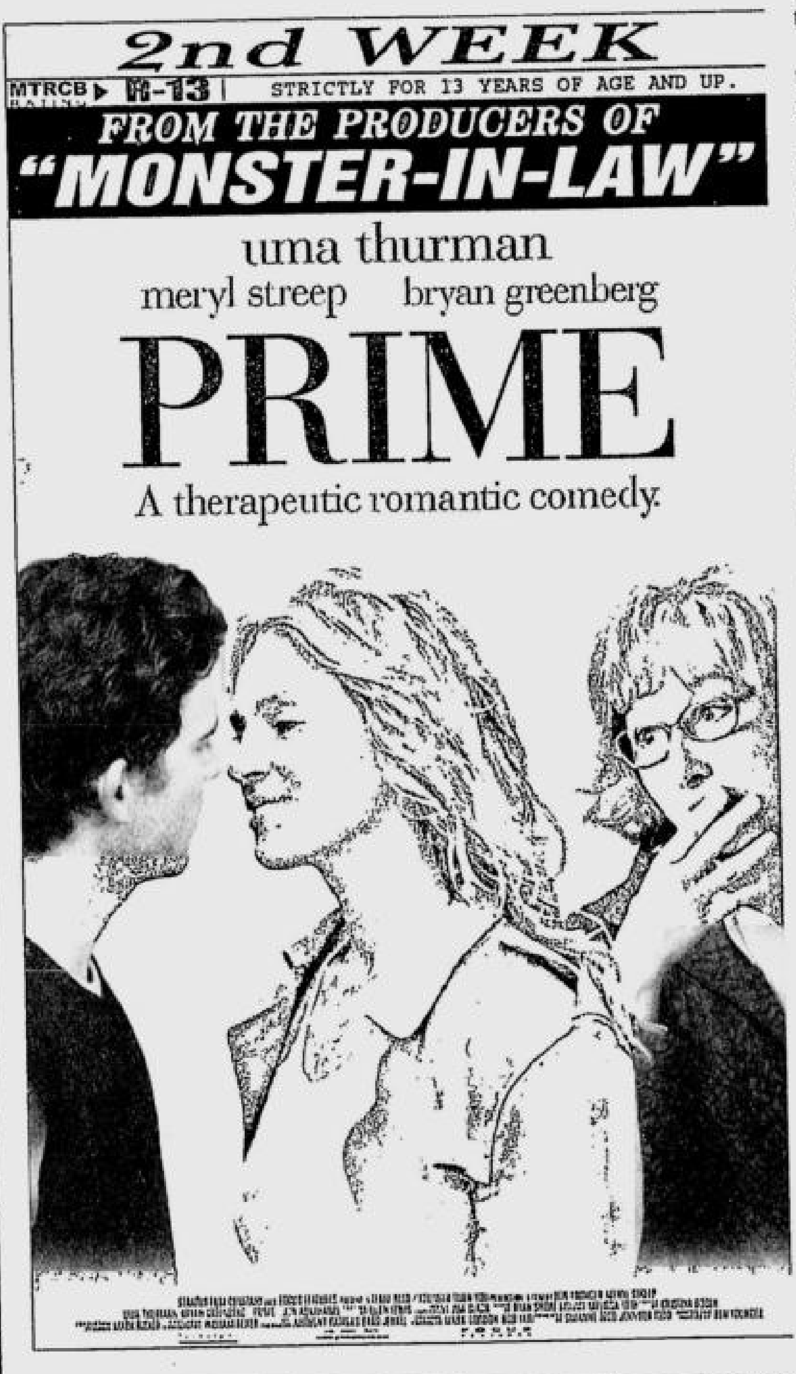

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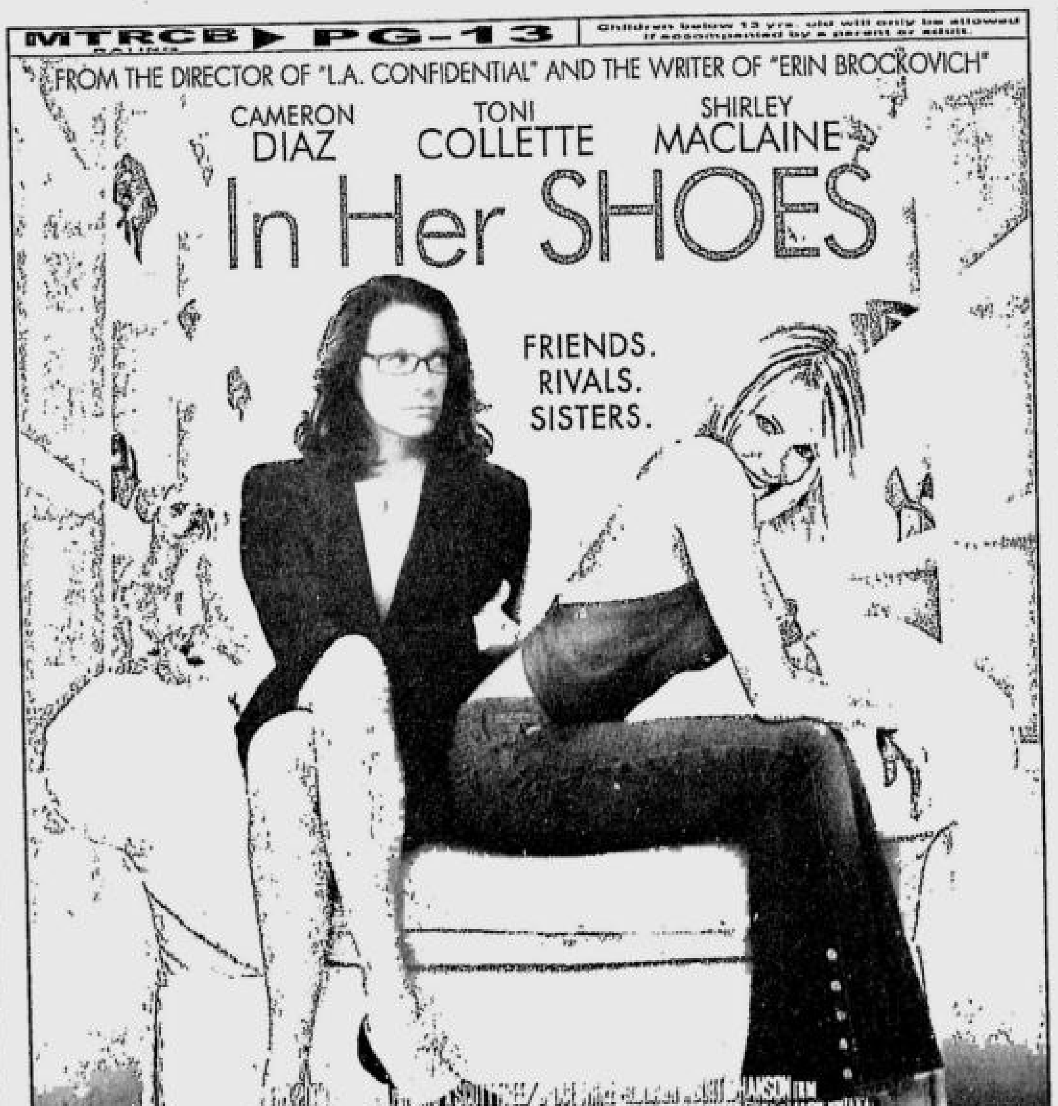

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In Her SHOES

FRIENDS. RIVALS. SISTERS.

OPENS DECEMBER 7

ANNA Sörensen in "Merry Christmas"

Peace in a time of bitter war

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ANTI-WAR FILMS APPEAR TO HAVE GONE out of fashion as global society turns more combative and cynical.

But the current film, "Merry Christmas," overcomes this prevalent cynical attitudes, because it's based on events that actually took place during World War I, way back in 1914.

Thus, it shows that peace is attainable, even during war. True, a number of fictive elaborations may have been added to the historical facts, but sufficient veracity is left to give viewers a truly inspiring and moving viewing experience.

The film is set in a small town in Northern France, four months into the war. It's close the Christmas season, but this means little to the generals of the forces of Germany, France and Scotland.

They instruct the troops under them to fight to the death to make sure that the trenches they occupy won't be overrun by the enemy. The combatants do as ordered, and shoot at one another with ferocious abandon.

Then, at Christmas Eve, something miraculous takes place: The commanding officers of the Germans on one side, and France and Scotland on the other, agree on a one-day ceasefire, so that their troops can celebrate Christ's birth peacefully, as it deserves to be observed.

In the movie, this is partly effected by the visit of two famous German singers, who initially serenade their troops, but end up performing for all of the troops within earshot, be they friend or foe.

We don't know if this "operatic recital" on the war-torn battlefield actually took place, but it does give **Diane Kruger** a memorable character to portray.

Other affecting moments, be they fact or fiction, are provided by the three officers who command the German, French and Scottish forces.

They are depicted as professional soldiers, but they are also capable of bending military rules for the sake of their men, even if they incur the ire of their superiors.

The most striking decision is made by the German officer, when he warns the other commanders that their position will soon be shelled by German artillery. Impressively, he allows the "enemy" forces to move to the German trenches as their position is bombed.

Another memorable character is the Scottish priest who volunteers to go the front just to be with the boys conscripted from his parish in Scotland.

Toward the end of the film, he is roundly berated by a bishop for saying Christmas Mass even for the "enemy."

These and other incidents show that some of the soldiers who participated in the Christmas ceasefire paid dearly for their peaceful initiative.

And yet they weren't sorry they did it, because it reminded them of the humanity they shared even with their "foes."

We trust that viewers who see "Merry Christmas" today will be similarly reminded of that bond we share with everyone, friend and foe alike.

If even soldiers at war can opt for peace, we too can be similarly enlightened and forgiving in our relationship, especially as Christmas nears.

Let's end the year right and make peace, not war.

Dans exhibit and book launching

AT 6 P.M. on Dec. 7, a coffee table book of noted artist **Araceli Limcaco Dans'** paintings and drawings will be launched at the Art Center of SM Megamall.

Accompanying the book launch is a retrospective exhibit of Dans' acclaimed artworks at Galerie Y, until Dec. 20. Call 635-3016.

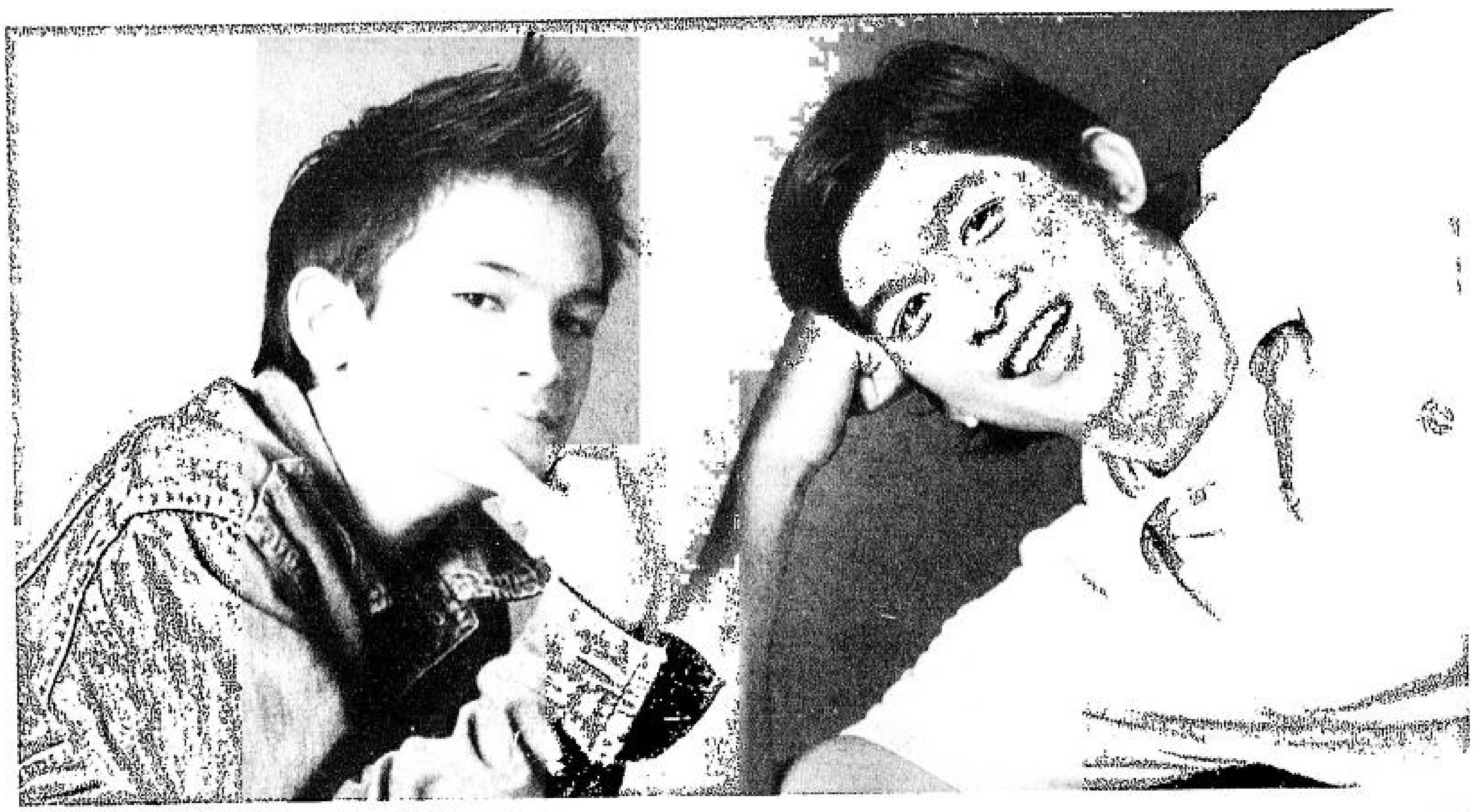
SWEET somethings between 2 titans at 'Purple' opening

The Power ...

From page A2-1

to the nearby Broadway premiere of "The Color Purple" after their chat. Winfrey co-produced the musical, at least partly explaining the timing of her Letterman appearance.

The summit between the talk titans was set up by years of Letterman jokes about Winfrey, mixed in with years of her rejecting offers to appear on the show, and endless promotion since her visit was announced. AP



IN PERSON, Nathan Lopez and JR Valentin are very different from their now famous characters.

FRANK HOEFSMITH

Nathan and JR flirt with fame

By B. Carlo M. Tadiar
Contributor

WHEN THERE IS A PAUSE IN the demand for his autograph, 14-year-old Nathan Lopez, who plays the title role in the much-talked-about movie, "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," rests his head on his arms, outstretched on the table. His mood is inscrutable, and this underscores a feline quality in his beauty. The pose is one he assumes at a turning point in the movie, a moment of helplessness, when two bright teardrops roll down his cheeks and he breaks the cycle of retribution that's got his heart caught in the middle.

Achieving a dream-like success, the small, independently produced digital film opened commercially in Manila theaters last week after winning accolades everywhere.

Inadequate translation

A lot has been written about it, too, but an error has repeatedly been made in its synopsis. Nathan does not play a gay 12-year-old (he was 13 at the time of filming) who falls in love with an idealistic policeman and becomes torn between love for him and love for his doting widower father and pair of brothers, who are petty thieves.

"Gay" is an identity that emerged in America in the middle of the last century, and it is defined by sexual orientation. But it is a crucial aspect of the story that "Maxi" is what (s)he is well before discovering an object of desire and thus becomes "*dalaga.*" He is a "girl" even before he turns into a "*dalaga*" *(young lady)* and falls in love with a man. Maxi is *binabae*, *bading*, or cruelly, *bakla*, which doesn't exactly mean "gay." This is what prevents the patently apt Filipino title from being translated into English. Thus, "pagdadalaga" is rendered as "blossoming."

Likewise, it is the particularity of the lower class, un-bourgeois, underworld milieu in which the story takes place that makes believable the touching tenderness toward Maxi of his outlaw father and brothers.

Director Auraeus Solito is primarily known as a documentary filmmaker (this is his first feature). He lives—and has previously filmed—in the neighborhood in Sampaloc where "Maximo" was shot.

Quite the goofball

There's a mirror in the plot. The story is a coming-of-age, not just of the title character, but also of the beloved who prompts the awakening, the policeman Victor, played seamlessly by JR Valentin. Victor comes to realize that the law for which he stands, the principle of order and justice which makes us humans, stands at a gap from the law that is a national set of prohibitions and punishments enforced by the police. He, too, loses his innocence.

Unlike Nathan, JR has acted in films before, though in small roles. He has a part in the simultaneously released "Hari ng Sablay." He is also a professional model. Being comfortable in front of the camera, he has helped his young co-star. "*Noong* first meet *namin sinasabihan ko siyang, basahin mo muna; huwag mo-i-*act *kaagad*," recounts JR. "*Kung baga, sagutan lang tayo. Kung anong nakikita mong reaction, ganon rin ang ibigay mo sa akin.*"

The pair of actors are markedly different in person from the characters that have thrust them into the limelight. Where Victor is serious and isolated, JR is a bit of a goofball, constantly making light of everything, with varying degrees of success. "*Hay, nakaka-*turn off," teases the film's producer Raymond Lee when JR makes an outstandingly corny joke.

But JR is not without his own share of problems that require his maturity. Remarkably, the most memorable scene for him in the movie is its turning point, the climax, a moment of fatal violence. Minutes before they shot it, he got word that his grandfather had died.

'I'm a star now?'

After one of numerous small previews, Nathan is taken aback by how distant he feels from his onscreen character. "*Ibang-iba ako sa sarili ko doon*," he exclaims, breaking the reticence and formality that he assumes for the greater part of the interview. Like JR, he is surprised at how beautiful the film turned out and how warmly it is being received. "*Ano ba ito?*" he remembers thinking to himself when he was repeatedly asked for his autograph after the very first screening of the film. "*Artista na pala ako.*"

Whenever he is interviewed on TV, he is asked if he is *bading*. Sometimes he is even asked to do a Maxi moment on the spot. It is not easy for him impromptu, he tells INQUIRER Entertainment. "*Name*-mental block *ako*." With klieg lights trained on him in a room full of people, one interviewer asks Nathan to invite viewers to watch the movie as Maxi would. He crosses his legs like a *dalaga* but then the words fail to come out of his mouth. With each interview, though, he grows more relaxed. After the premiere on Tuesday, girls asked to kiss him.

For sure, celebrity is flirting heavily with the lead actors of "Maximo." JR dismisses the notion: "*Gusto ko lang magtrabaho.*"

FEEDBACK

From "Pureza," 1220 2nd St, Chula Vista, CA (via e-mail):

JULIA Clarete (winner of ABC 5's reality talent search, "Hollywood Dream") is very talented. She speaks English fluently and has an appeal that could help her break through the tough US movie industry. Hopefully, she would not limit herself to movie roles—she could try soaps or prime time TV shows. Life here in the US is not easy, especially, I imagine, for actors like her. But charisma, appeal, talent and luck hold the key to her chances. All the best of luck to her.

DID YOU KNOW...

LOS ANGELES—Oscar-winning US movie star **Gwyneth Paltrow** is pregnant with her second child, the website of US celebrity television show Entertainment Tonight has reported. The 33-year-old actress and her British rocker husband **Chris Martin**, 28, of the group ColdPlay are the parents of a 19-month-old girl named Apple. ET did not give a source for the news. *AFP*

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① CHICKEN LITTLE
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1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

② JUST LIKE HEAVEN
MTRCB GP
12.40, 3.00, 5:20, 7 40, 10 00

③ EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
MTRCB: PG-13
1:30, 4.20, 7 10, 10.00

④ HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
MTRCB GP
12 15, 3.30, 6:45, 10.00

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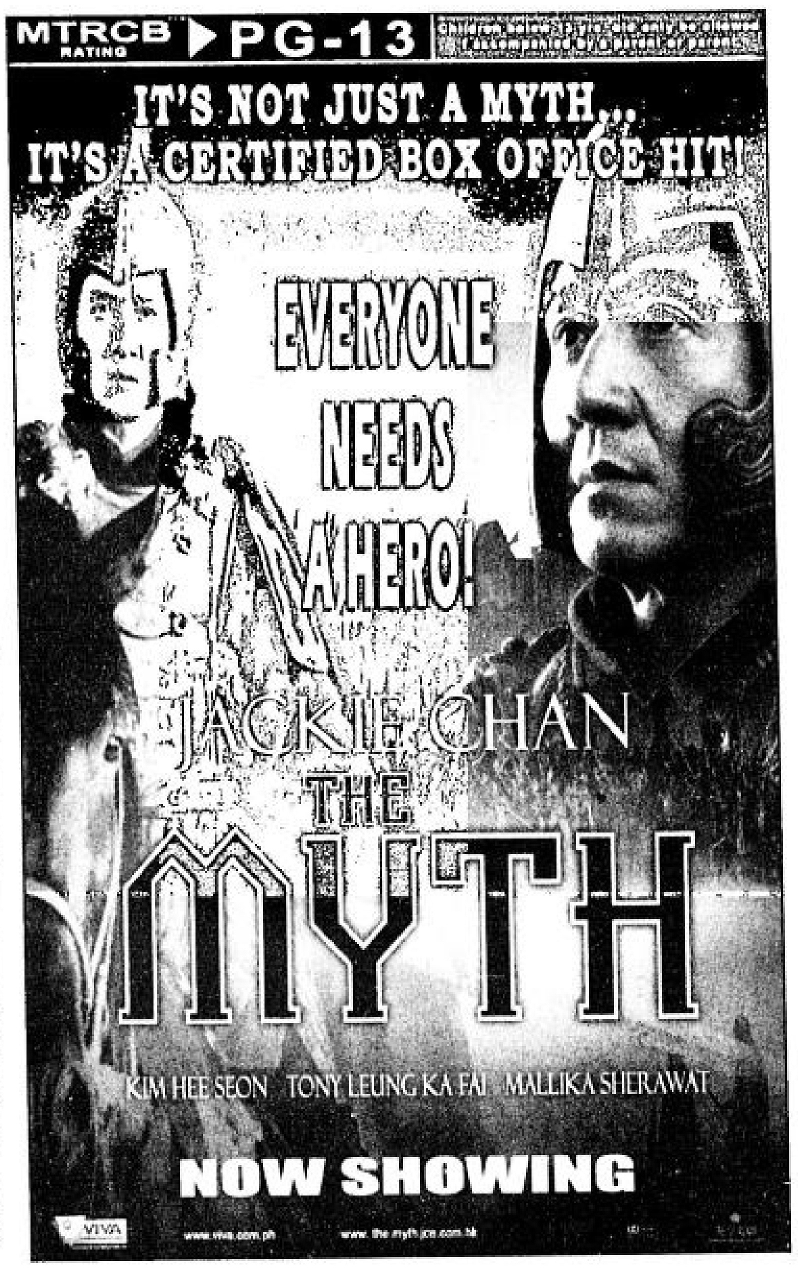

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1 HARRY POTTER 4 • THX
12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30

2 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 PRIME
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

5 HARI NG SABLAY
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 FLIGHTPLAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

8 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

9 THE MYTH
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

10 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1:25 4:10 6:55 9:40

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE 12:00 3:20 6:40 10:00

2 PRIME
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 HARI NG SABLAY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 THE MYTH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 PRIME
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:10 3:20 6:30 9:40

3 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:15 2:00 3:45 5:30 7:15 9:00

4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
11:50 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

5 THE MYTH
1:10 3:50 6:30 9:10

6 APRIL SNOW
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

8 HARI NG SABLAY
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 HARI NG SABLAY
5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
6 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

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2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

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3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE

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3 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE
4 THE MYTH
5 HARI NG SABLAY

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4 THE MYTH
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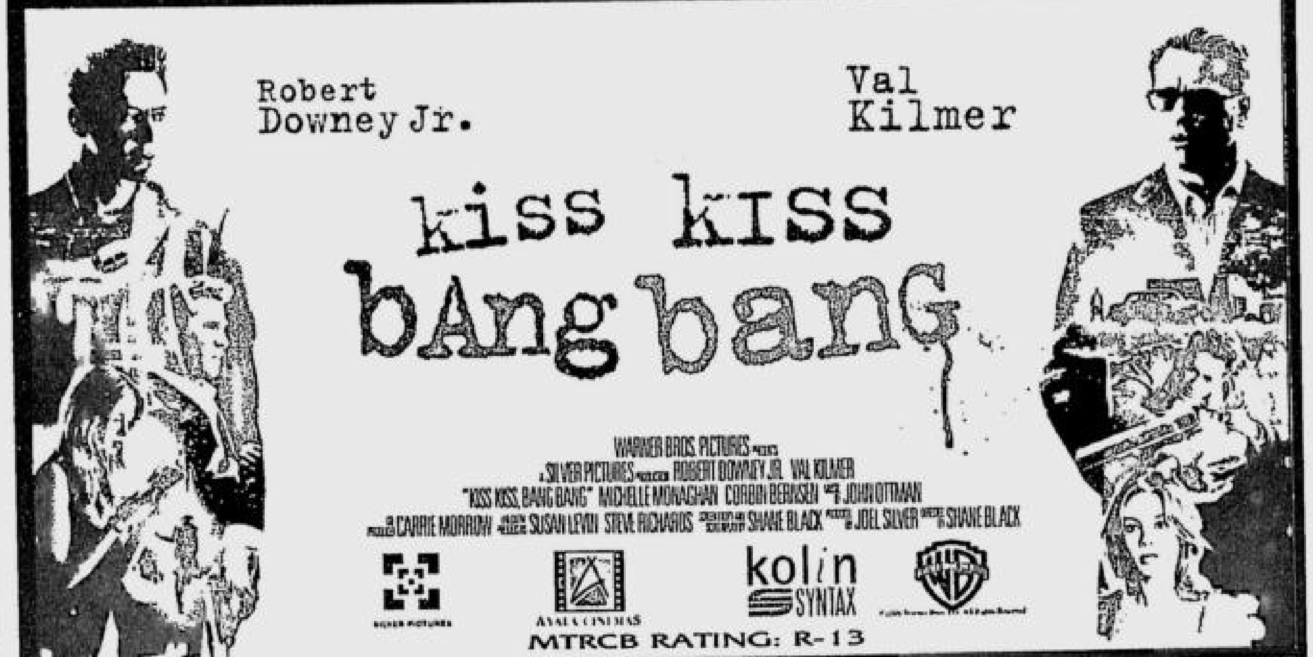
G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	3 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS	4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	3 THX JUST LIKE HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 PRIME	5 THE MYTH	6 CHICKEN LITTLE	7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:30, 2:40, 5:50, 9:00	2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN 12:10, 2:15, 4:20, 6:25, 8:30		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX JUST LIKE HEAVEN 2.50, 4.55, 7.00, 9.05, 11.10 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 1.30, 4.00 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 DEEP BLUE 2:50, 4.45, 6.40, 8.35, 10.30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 HARRY POTTER 4 1.30, 4.40, 7.50, 11.00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CHICKEN LITTLE 1.20, 3.10, 5.00, 6.50, 8.40, 10.30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX JUST LIKE HEAVEN	2 CHICKEN LITTLE		
	3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	5 CHICKEN LITTLE	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	2 CHICKEN LITTLE	3 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS	4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

OPENS DECEMBER 7
AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS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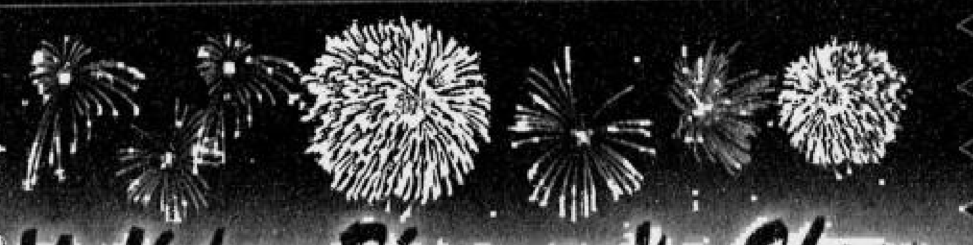

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November 20, 27
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Dec. 15 - 23, 6:30 pm

CAMERON Diaz

Same shoe size no proof of sisterhood

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

SIBLING RIVALRY-REVELRY BIND TWO EXtremely different sisters in the honest and resonant "In Her Shoes," directed by Curtis Hanson ("LA Confidential") and penned by screenwriter Susannah Grant ("Erin Brockovich"). The collaboration is splendid, fleshed out by the subtleties of the strong female leads.

The pleasures and pains of being close to kin are deftly examined through the love-hate relationship between frumpy lawyer Rose (Toni Collette) and her freeloading younger sister Maggie (Cameron Diaz). They were once inseparable but have grown into their own worlds: Rose is a responsible yet drab career woman, while devil-may-care Maggie survives solely on her looks. They have the same shoe size, however, which provides perennially unemployed Maggie a collection of fancy footwear that she helps herself to without her sister's permission.

Magnetic

It's when Maggie takes something else, or rather, someone else—Rose's co-worker boyfriend (Richard Burgi)!—that a real rift begins, the betrayal kicking off two separate quests for healing and re-evaluation. And, as we already know from the trailer, their estranged grandmother, Ella (played by a more-sedate-than-usual Shirley MacLaine), figures heavily in the complicated process of forgiveness and growth.

The movie surprisingly strikes a heady, welcome balance between drama and comedy, while developing real people and problems in a straightforward manner. The three hurting women act as necessary foils to each other, but they aren't relegated to the singular dimensions of the slut, the wallflower, and the sage for long. Collette, whose simple nuances give lasting meat to her character's metamorphoses, is a magnetic presence.

Unique

The narrative gets a little rumpled when a subplot concerning an old family tragedy is discussed, but the characters' reactions to it are heartfelt and make them more human. That's what makes watching "In Her Shoes" a unique experience: it tackles the flaws of real-life families while offering optimism, sans the schmaltz overload.

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1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:45, 4:10, 7:35, 11:00 GP
2 CHICKEN LITTLE 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GP
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20 8:40, 11:00 GP
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:00 PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

THE MYTH PG13 - 1:45,4:15 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE PG13 6:45,9:20	CHICKEN LITTLE GP 11:00,1:00,3:00, 5:00,7:00,9:00	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00
CHICKEN LITTLE GP 11:50,1:50,3:50 PRIME R13 5:30,7:45,10:00	PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS PG13 12:50,3:00,5:10,7:20,9:30	JUST LIKE HEAVEN GP 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15

SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898 1440-41.

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CINEMA 1 PRIME (R13) 11:20, 2:05 EXORCISM (PG13) 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
CINEMA 2 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP - 11:00, 2:20, 5:40, 9:00
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 CHICKEN LITTLE GP 11:45, 1:40, 3:35, 5:30, 7:25, 9:20
CINEMA 4 CHICKEN LITTLE GP - 10:45, 12:40, 2:35, 4:30, 6:25, 8:20, 10:15
CINEMA 5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN - PG13 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM December 10, 2005 CUESHE 8PM
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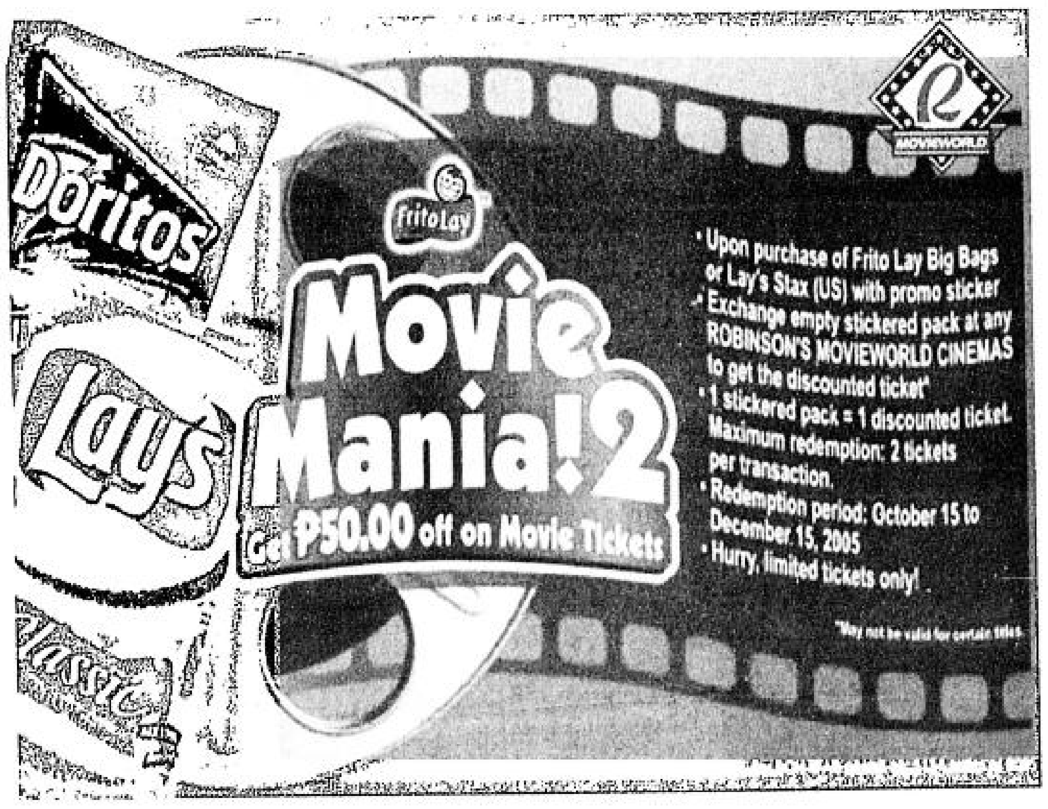

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- 1 stickered pack = 1 discounted ticket. Maximum redemption: 2 tickets per transaction.
- Redemption period: October 15 to December 15, 2005
- Hurry, limited tickets only!

*May not be valid for certain titles.

Araneta Center Leisure Guide
CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway Cineplex 10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 HARRY POTTER
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:40 / 3:40 / 6:40 / 9:40	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA CHICKEN LITTLE 1:10 / 6:10 HARRY POTTER 3:00 / 9:00
JUST LIKE HEAVEN 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	CHICKEN LITTLE 11:30 / 1:45 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 8:55
MERRY CHRISTMAS 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30	THE MYTH 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
...MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 1:10 / 3:50 / 6:30 / 9:20
HARI NG SABLAY 12:35 / 3:45 / 4:55 / 7:05 / 9:15	PRIME 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET 12:00 R4 / 2:00 / 5:00 / 8:00	❹ ...MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:05 R3/ 1:45 / 3:55 / 6:05 / 8:15
❷ HARI NG SABLAY 12:10 R3 / 1:40 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 8:10	❺ THE MYTH 12:20 / 3:05 / 5:50 / 8:35
❸ CHICKEN LITTLE 12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:30	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
ATENEO - LA SALLE DREAM GAMES '05 Dec 8 Thu LEGENDS GAME 4:30 pm DREAM GAME 7pm
URCC - THE ART OF WAR December 10 Saturday 8:00 pm
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Box Office News Movie Schedules Live Events
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SM movietime EXCLUSIVE
Samuel Jackson Eugene Levy
The MAN
Directed by Les Mayfield
From the creators of "Rush Hour" comes another explosive action comedy film! Tough Federal agent Derrick Vann (Samuel Jackson) is forced to team up with dental supply salesman Andy Fiddler (Eugene Levy) to recover a pile of stolen weapons Van is suspected of stealing. Will this unlikely duo solve the crime in time or will Vann go down for the crime?
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VS.
MONSOUR DEL ROSARIO TAEKWONDO CHAMPION
Bloodfist 2050
THE LEGEND OF THE FIST CONTINUES

movietime SCHEDULE AND EVENTS
RED CARPET PREMIERE TONIGHT! THE PODIUM
Megamall AN UNFINISHED LIFE Dec. 6 • Cinema 2
movietime EXCLUSIVE
BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES Now Showing
THE MAN Now Showing
LOOK WHO'S WATCHING AT THE PODIUM!
CHICKEN LITTLE NOW SHOWING

GUARANTEED SEATS
THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 CHICKEN LITTLE 12:30FS/01:00MF/03:00/05:00/7:00 08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:30END
2 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:00FS/11:30MF/02:40/05:50 08:30LFS/09:00LMF/11:40END
MEGAMALL
1 MERRY CHRISTMAS
CEBU (032) 231-3870
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:15FS/12:15MF/03:20/06:25 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/12:10END
2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN 11:50FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:48/05:42 07:36/09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:05END
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 11:15FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:48/05:42 07:36/09:21LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 MERRY CHRISTMAS
2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 PAPARAZZI
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 HARI NG SABLAY
9 THE MYTH
10 PRIME
11 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12 THE MAN

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 HARI NG SABLAY
6 PRIME
7 THE MYTH
8 THE MAN
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE MAN
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 THE MAN
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
2 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 CHICKEN LITTLE
9 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
10 THE MAN
11 PRIME
12 APRIL SNOW

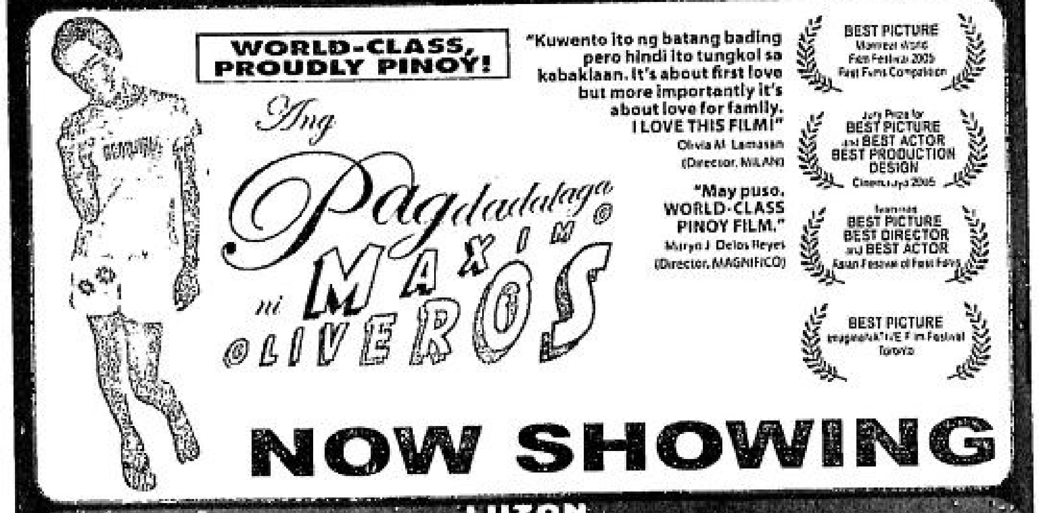
SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 THE MAN
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 PRIME

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 THE MAN
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 THE MYTH
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 HARI NG SABLAY
6 CHICKEN LITTLE
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 THE MAN

SM CITY MANILA
1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 THE MYTH
7 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
8 PRIME
9 HARI NG SABLAY
10 MERRY CHRISTMAS
11 FLIGHTPLAN
12 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

SM CINEMA [illegible]
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MAN
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
6 HARI NG SABLAY



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"Kuwento ito ng batang bading pero hindi ito tungkol sa kabaklaan. It's about first love but more importantly it's about love for family. I LOVE THIS FILM!" Olivia M. Lamasan (Director, MILAN)
"May puso, WORLD-CLASS PINOY FILM." Maryo J. Delos Reyes (Director, MAGNIFICO)
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Jury Prize for BEST PICTURE and BEST ACTOR BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN Cinemalaya 2005
BEST PICTURE BEST DIRECTOR and BEST ACTOR Asian Festival of First Films
BEST PICTURE imagineNATIVE Film Festival Toronto
NOW SHOWING

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 CRY WOLF
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM MOLINO NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 THE MYTH
4 HARI NG SABLAY

SM CITY BACOOR
1 THE MAN
2 THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
8 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES

SM CITY MARILAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 THE MYTH

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 MY SASSY GIRL
4 HARI NG SABLAY

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FOUR BROTHERS

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
4 CHICKEN LITTLE
5 APRIL SNOW
6 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
7 HARI NG SABLAY
8 THE MYTH

SM CITY ILOILO
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 RESERVED
3 THE MYTH
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 RESERVED
8 MY SASSY GIRL

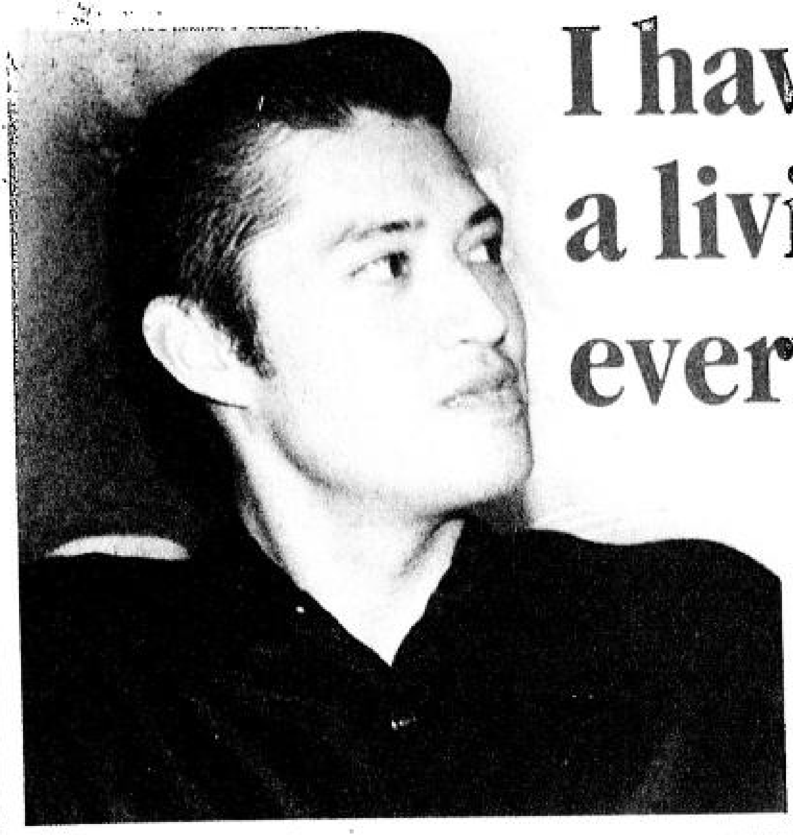
SM CITY DAVAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 APRIL SNOW
5 THE MYTH
6 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM [illegible] DE ORO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 APRIL SNOW
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 WAITING

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

I have to earn a living, like everyone else

Mark Anthony Fernandez, now 26, says he no longer depends on his parents for money



MARK Anthony Fernandez PDI PHOTO

By Nini Valera

THE WIFE OF MARK ANTHONY FERnandez cried the first time she asked him for money and he was able to give her P30,000.

"That was when reality struck me," Mark said during an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment. "P30,000 is not a big sum of money for most us [in show biz]. But for her, it meant a lot."

Mark's wife is Melissa Garcia, with whom he has a 4-year-old son, Cameron.

"We work to survive just like everybody else," said Mark, who's on his third movie comeback following almost a year in rehab. "I don't depend on my parents (Rudy Fernandez and Alma Moreno) for daily expenses. But when I needed a new car, they helped me trade in my old one for a new model."

Mark, 26, said he's now clean as a whistle. "I'd like to set the record straight, though. I was never hooked on *shabu*. The rehab center can attest to that. I was using only marijuana; no one could be addicted to that… but it is still illegal."

The reason that he was in rehab for a long time, he claimed, was his denial that he had a problem. "I did not want to accept that there was something wrong with me. But I've gotten that out of my system. I've learned to accept life as it is. I like [what I have] now—my family, the times we spend together. That's the most important for me now."

Career next

On his list of priority, work comes a close second.

"I want to secure my career now," he said. "I almost blew it. There was a time when I was pushing away jobs. All of a sudden, there were no more coming my way. [So] I know what it's like to be jobless."

Needless to say, his comeback movie role in one of the episodes of Regal Entertainment's interminable horror trilogy, "Shake, Rattle and Roll" (No. 6) is a welcome opportunity for Mark.

"I would have wanted an action movie for a comeback," he admitted. "But this role (as husband of Tanya Garcia living in a vampire infested town) is also great. It combines action and comedy, so I'm comfortable."

But what he'd like to do most is a TV sitcom.

"Who knows? I might have one soon," said Mark, who belongs to the ABS-CBN stable of stars.

Then there's his new high—badminton.

"I'm really into the game," he said. "I play almost every day. I practice a lot and work out a lot. I'm planning a tournament that will benefit the drug rehab center where I was confined. At the same time, I'd like to promote badminton as an alternative to drugs. *Dito na lang kumuha ng high.*"

Peck's star stolen from Walk of Fame

ELSE WHERE

LOS ANGELES—GREGORY PECK'S STAR ON the Hollywood Walk of Fame was stolen by someone who cut it out of the sidewalk where it had honored the actor for more than four decades, officials said.

"They just left a big hole out there," said Johnny Grant, 82, who serves as Hollywood's honorary mayor and oversees the Chamber of Commerce ceremonies honoring star recipients. "Somebody went out there with a cement saw and carved it out of the black terrazzo."

Original batch

Peck's star on the southwest corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Gower Street was part of the original group of some 1,500 set into Hollywood sidewalks before it was officially dedicated in 1960.

It apparently disappeared sometime between Nov. 17 and Nov. 22, Grant said.

Officer Jim Parker said police learned of the theft from Grant on Tuesday.

Fourth 'victim'

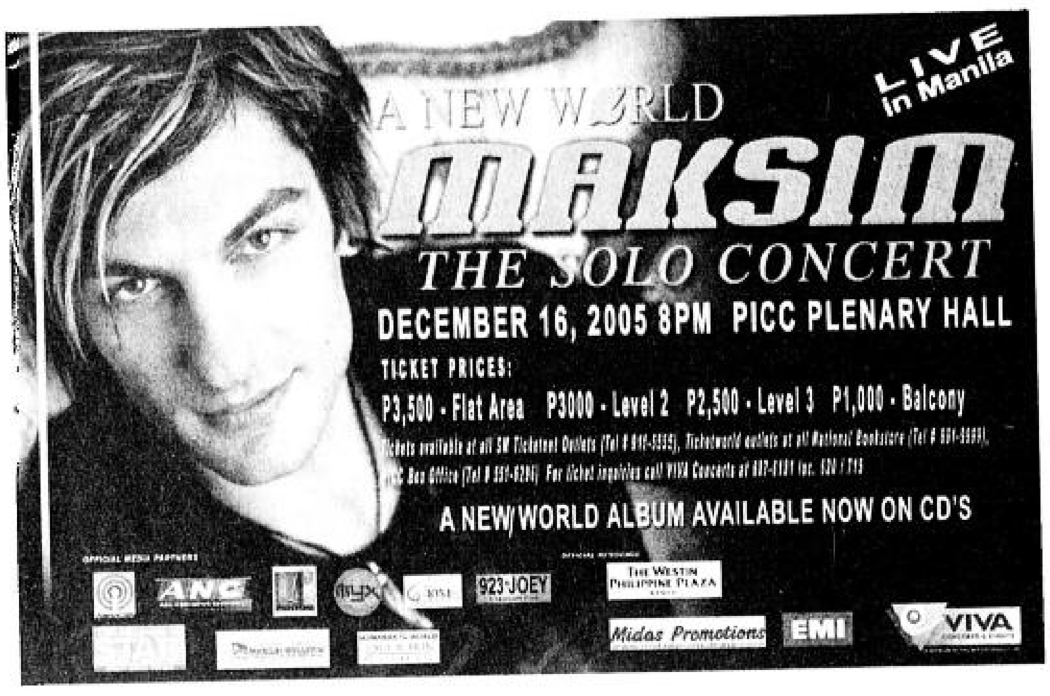
Peck, who died in 2003 at age 87, won an Oscar for his portrayal of upstanding Southern lawyer Atticus Finch in 1962's "To Kill a Mockingbird."

His star is the fourth to be stolen since the Walk of Fame was begun.

Years ago, stars honoring Jimmy Stewart and Kirk Douglas disappeared after they were removed during a construction project, Grant said. Police in suburban South Gate found them in the garage of a home during an unrelated investigation.

Gene Autry's star also disappeared during a construction project.

A replacement for Peck's star has already been partially installed but remains covered up. *AP*



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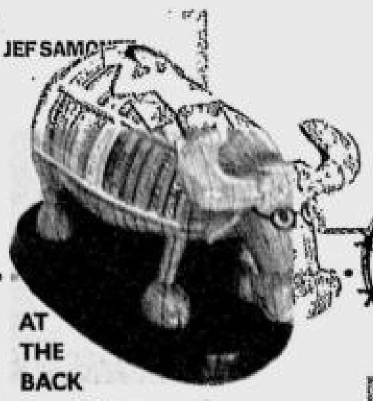


JEF SAMON

It's not all biz, the buzz is it's home

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

FROM A HOLE IN THE WALL, THE BUSINESS SECTION HAS evolved into one of the country's most awarded.

A small corner of the original INQUIRER office at the Madrid Restaurant on Edsa was where it all started: a business editor and four reporters pounding on typewriters the day's business and economic news.

Today, the Business Section has a staff of 14—a section editor, an assistant editor, a business features editor, two desk editors, seven reporters, and an editorial administrative assistant—working on the

IT'S NOT/B10

AT THE BACK from left are Raul Marcelo, Elizabeth Sanchez, Tina Dumlao, Amy Remo, Michelle Remo, Abigail Ho and Corrie Narisma. On the foreground from left, are Christine Gaylican, Margie Espino, Doris Dumlao, Clarissa Batino, Ronnel Domingo and Eric Olona.

Gov't net borrowings exceed ceiling by 58%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S NET BORrowings reached P243 billion in the first 10 months of the year, exceeding its program for the period by 58 percent.

Documents from the Department of Finance showed that the government set a financing ceiling of only P153.5 billion for the January-to-October period.

The net borrowings were composed of the P95.3 billion worth of net external debt and P147.7 billion worth of debts from domestic sources. The finance department said it has adopted a policy of borrowing more from local rather than foreign sources to avoid too much exposure to foreign exchange risks.

Net borrowings are the difference between the amount borrowed by the government and the payments for maturing obligations. Gross external financing for the 10-month period stood at P207.8 billion, while payments reached P112.5 billion. Gross domestic borrowings were recorded at P370.4 billion, while payments for matured local obligations stood at P222.7 billion.

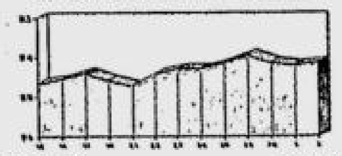
The higher-than-programmed financing for the first 10 months of the year had to do with the favorable interest rate environment which encouraged fiscal authorities to partially pre-fund the government's borrowing requirements for 2006.

Last September, the government sold $1 billion worth of sovereign bonds in the international market, although it needed only $850 mil-

GOV'T/B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 54.155 = $ 1

Y 120.66 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Dec. 2, 2005

GOLD: $503.90-504.40
per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 2, 2005

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Market seen to remain upbeat

THE STOCK MARKET IS SEEN TO CONTINUE posting gains this week, buoyed by expectations of tamer interest rates and good economic growth.

MARKET/B2

Portofino
THE NEW ALABANG

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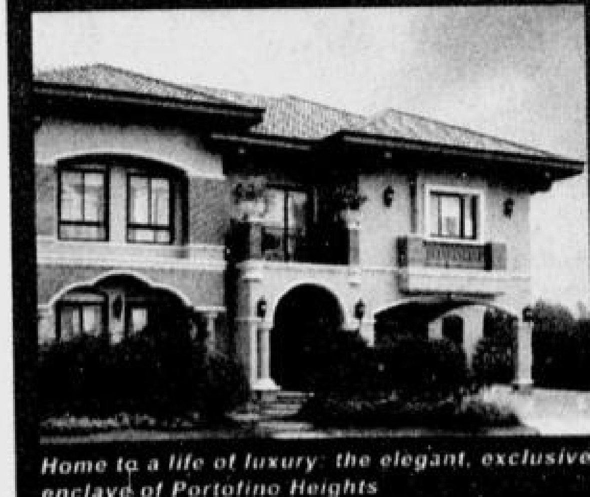

Home to a life of luxury: the elegant, exclusive enclave of Portofino Heights

Gateway to the masterplanned Italian masterpiece development of Portofino

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Courtyards of Portofino: a growing neighborhood of quaint courtyard homes

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BIR to tighten monitoring of flea markets

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue said it would renew efforts to tighten the monitoring of flea markets or the "tiangge" following complaints from legitimate businesses about the unfair competition posed by these retailers, many of which are not registered taxpayers.

"We will make sure that these (flea market operations) are checked," said Revenue Comissioner Jose Mario Buñag.

The BIR chief made the statement in a recent business forum where members of the business community raised the problem on the proliferation of flea market vendors who eat up the market share of legitimate businesses.

Businessman Raul T. Concepcion urged the BIR to put teeth into its anti-tax evasion drive partly by strictly monitoring the operations of flea markets. He said the existence of tax delinquent flea markets was one factor making the business environment unfriendly to legitimate investors.

Flea markets proliferate especially during the Christmas season when consumer purchasing power peaks.

Two years ago, the BIR issued a revenue regulation that will place flea market operators under the country's tax base. One measure it adopted to accomplish the objective of a bigger tax base was to subject tiangge owners to the value-added tax (VAT) and made them liable to pay other taxes.

The BIR also proposed owners of establishments where flea markets are situated to act as tax agents for the government by collecting the tax liabilities of the flea market vendors renting their places.

But businessmen said there was still a significant number of unregistered flea market operators which are not caught by the revenue agency's surveillance efforts.

Managing to empower

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

MY WIFE AND I TOOK A PAL FLIGHT HOME from Bangkok recently, and as luck would have it, the audio consoles on our seats gave nothing but static noise. It was particularly disappointing as the movie showing on the screen was something we wished we could have followed; the video looked interesting, but the audio was just not there. As the flight was full (overbooked, we were even told), there were no other seats we could be moved to.

To be fair, a flight engineer tried to fix the malfunction, but had to give up after a couple of attempts to fiddle with the equipment. And that was it. No word of apology from the crew, no attempt to make up for the inconvenience. In typical Filipino fashion, it was treated as just one of those things that you shrug your shoulders about, and then grin and bear it.

Industry practice

But I wouldn't let it pass just like that. I later asked if it was not customary for them to compensate passengers for this kind of inconvenience. I distinctly remember three past instances when exactly the same thing happened to me or my family members in other airlines, and was promptly compensated by the crew for it—once with a service voucher worth $200, another time with 500 bonus points in their mileage rewards program, and a third time with a bottle of wine to take home. I've seen it happen many times to other fellow passengers too, and it seems standard practice in other airlines to make up—even in a token manner—for this kind of inconvenience, including other similar mishaps like delayed luggage, malfunctioning seats, and so on. But not, it seems, with what claims to be Asia's first airline. PAL may have been Asia's first, but it isn't exactly keeping up with common practice in the rest of the industry nowadays.

No authority

Don't get me wrong; I'm not writing this to publicly demand compensation from the airline. I'm not that kind of columnist. I merely wish to highlight what I believe to be yet another clear example of what might be keeping the Philippines behind most of its neighbors—in this case, of what appears to be a critical shortcoming in the way we manage and govern our firms and our institutions.

The kindly flight attendant who heard me out explained to me, in a somewhat frustrated tone, that they in the flight crew simply had no authority to offer aggrieved passengers like us any compensation of the sort I mentioned for incidents such as these. They could even be reprimanded for doing so, he explained. He did concur that I could write the management if I wished to pursue the matter. Upon asking which company official I should write, I was again struck by his reply: I should write the company president. I was only expecting the name of an official responsible for customer service, but no, I was referred directly to the top man (well, at least he didn't refer me to the airline's well-known chair of the board and majority owner).

Disempowering governance

Nothing could be a clearer manifestation of what needs to change in our governance if we as a country are to move forward, and be internationally competitive. If our own national flag carrier can't seem to be world-class even on a small matter, what more when it comes to larger matters?

The flight crew are not empowered to make on-the-spot decisions to deal with an in-flight concern, and must refer such decisions to the higher-ups—in this case, even the highest-up! A microcosm, it seems, of the same lack of subsidiarity (i.e. being able to make decisions at the lowest level possible) in the Philippine bureaucracy. I recall an instance years ago when as a UP Los Baños professor, I sent a research assistant to the Department of Energy to obtain time-series data on world crude oil prices which I needed for a research project. This is information that is very public and far from being sensitive. I was thus appalled when my hapless assistant came back after practically wasting a day going to Manila and coming back, and told me that the DOE bureaucrat she encountered required her to produce a letter addressed to her boss signed by me, to formally request for the data.

Bureaucratic weaknesses

To me, that incident reflected at least four problems with our bureaucracy. One, government employees have imbibed a "culture of secrecy" and are so tight-fisted about information, even with those that are inherently public in nature. Two, many are not even competent enough to tell the difference between what is sensitive information and what is public information. Three, public servants tend to be unwilling to exercise judgment at their level and are more comfortable if someone higher up makes the decision instead. And four, many are too insensitive to the welfare of their clients and stakeholders. Not even her plea that she had traveled all the way from Laguna to get the data could get the bureaucrat to be more sympathetic to my assistant.

The way our government works, transparency seems to be a privilege, not a right. There is a great deal of incompetence that plagues our government workers and officials at various levels. Decision-making is marked by top-down governance, rather than subsidiarity and empowerment. I've heard it said many times that the Philippine president is much more powerful than the US president within their respective governments, having so much more authority over so many more matters of governance than the latter. And to top it all, many of our so-called public servants don't even deserve the name. They are not only insensitive to the public welfare; worse, many believe they are in office not to serve, but to be served.

Whether as Asia's first airline or as Asia's first democracy, I'm afraid we are not being very good examples to those around us. *Comments are welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu*

Market seen . . .

From page B1

Investors are seen to track inflation numbers for November that are scheduled to be released this week.

"Thus far, several players are already starting to anticipate key policy rates will remain unchanged, a move that will help support consumer spending with the approaching Christmas season," said Grace Cerdenia of 2TradeAsia.com.

She added that inflation has stayed unchanged at 7 percent for September and October. The market forecasts an acceleration of between 7 and 7.3 percent for November.

"Should results fall below expectations, sentiment might get the boost, aside from the usual window-dressing season each year," Cerdenia said.

AB Capital Securities echoed the same sentiment, saying it didn't expect any negative surprises as far as inflation was concerned.

"Expectations range from 6.7 percent to 7.1 percent, almost within the same range from the annualized inflation rate of 7 percent in October. In any case, the inflation figure is expected to pick up as we expect consumers to finally pull the trigger on spending as the Christmas season approaches," AB Capital Securities wrote in a report.

AB Capital Securities also said that on a technical perspective, the Phisix has managed to stay above the 2,050 support level and even established a good base at 2,080. "We remain upbeat on the market's movement as it remains on track to go for another try at the 2,144 and 2,172 levels," it said.

The PSE composite index managed to climb 8.8 points on four days of trading last week to 2114.89. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Gov't net . . .

From page B1

lion to complete its financing requirement for 2005. The excess of $150 million would be used to fund next year's requirements, finance officials had said.

For 2006, the government has set a borrowing program of about $4 billion.

But National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the Bureau of Treasury would no longer do some more pre-funding despite the fact that interest rates were declining and spreads on Philippine debt papers were narrowing.

For the whole of 2005, the government' net borrowings were only supposed to stay at or below the ceiling of P215.68 billion. Since the net borrowing figure for the first 10 months of the year was already higher at P243 billion, the amount of debt payments that the government would undertake before the end of the year should be higher than the borrowings it would still make.

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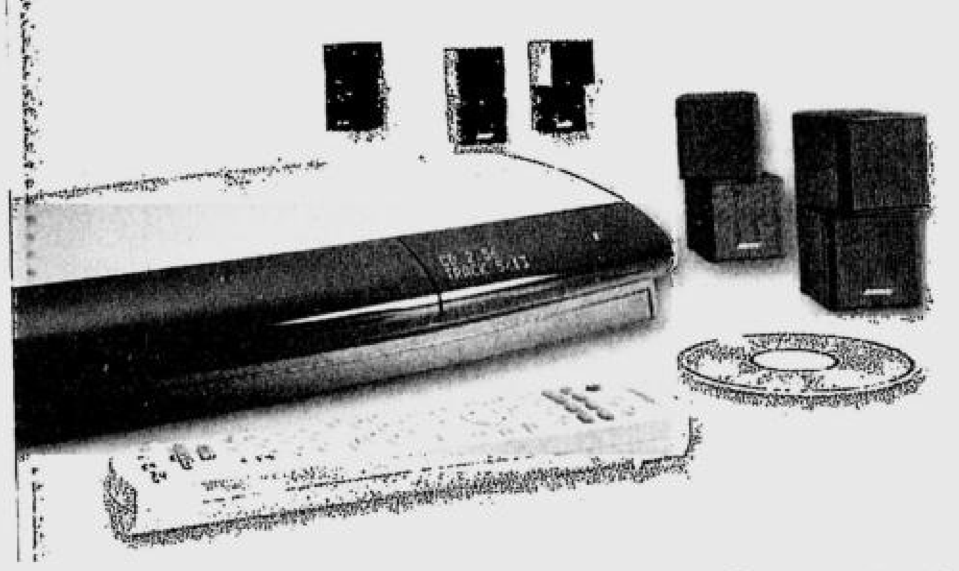

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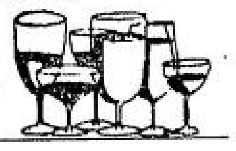

Victor C. Agustin

SAN MIGUEL CORP. HAS EXtracted a five-year option to buy majority control of Del Monte Pacific from condiments king Jose "Butch" Campos Jr. in exchange for SMC's 11th hour support for the Campos takeover plan of Del Monte, this we have gathered from various accounts.

SMC's belated and surprise comeback into the Del Monte equation came after an earlier alliance forged by Campos with Sumitomo Fruits collapsed.

Campos had earlier tapped Sumifru to help him bankroll his bold dream to acquire the Cirio and the Lorenzos' combined 62-percent stake in, and integrate his condiments empire with, the regional food-and-juice conglomerate Del Monte.

In exchange, Sumifru, which is developing a 4,000-hectare banana plantation in North Cotabato, wanted a 5-percent management fee, to include overseeing the Del Monte Bukidnon plantation which the family of former Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. currently manages.

Campos, in the end, eventually decided the management fee being demanded by the Japanese was too strong for his taste. Exit Sumifru, enter SMC.

For allowing SMC to realize its nearly foiled plan to acquire Del Monte, Campos in return wangled from his friend SMC president Ramon Ang a 10-percent fee to manage the food-and-juice conglomerate.

The management contract, according to the pro-Campos grapevine, is also good for five years.

The 10-percent fee, if analyst S. Cuttle Butt is to be believed, already includes the goodwill package for the Lorenzos in exchange for their block being used as the stalking horse into Del Monte.

(Question: How much of the Del Monte windfall would the Lorenzos plow into the aggressive Pancake House expansion?)

Banco de Oro, in turn, had been looped into the equation for SM heiress Teresita Sy, who sits in the PLDT board while brother Henry Jr. is in the SMC board, to help soften the blow on spurned Del Monte suitor, PLDT/First Pacific boss Manuel V. Pangilinan.

Suy Sing connection

THE SPECIAL purpose vehicle created by Butch Campos for the Del Monte acquisition lists four major shareholders.

In addition to San Miguel and Campos' Southeast Asia Foods Inc., a T.Y. Ang Family and Golden Chamber Investment Ltd. were identified as co-owners of the British Virgin Islands post office box company.

T.Y. Ang stands for Ang Tin Yu, the entrepreneurial force behind Suy Sing Commercial, the Binon-

COCKTALES/ B8

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(As of December 2, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33	33.5	32.5	33	438,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	59.5	58.5	59.5	467,000
China Banking Corp.	605	605	605	605	22,470
Citystate Savings Bank	17	17.5	17	17.5	2,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	220,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	52.5	55	52.5	54.5	236,100
International Exch. Bank	21.25	21.5	21.25	21.5	46,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	32.5	31	32	2,643,900
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	57,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14	14	14	14	15,000
Security Bank Corp.	33	33.5	33	33.5	47,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	30	30	7,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.8	0.85	0.8	0.85	150,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3135	3140	3135	3135	680
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	207,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2155	2160	2155	2155	660
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14	14	14	18,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.92	0.94	0.92	0.94	2,380,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	760	765	755	760	27,390
Ipeople Inc.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.45	344,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.055	0.047	0.047	9,200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	1,100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.6	1.68	1.6	1.68	36,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.45	3.55	3.45	3.5	4,643,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1735	1760	1735	1755	75,660
Ivantage Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	180,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	163,600,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15.5	15	15	48,100
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24	23.75	24	313,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.6	4,580,000
Petron Corp.	4.35	4.5	4.35	4.5	8,905,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.6	35,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	50,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.5	366,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.69	0.69	3,930,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.8	3.95	3.8	3.9	3,938,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	65,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	56,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	25.5	25.5	16,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	40	41.5	40	41.5	329,900
Pancake House Inc.	3.65	3.7	3.6	3.7	103,000
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64	65	137,100
San Miguel Corp. B	88	88	88	88	42,400
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	9	9	9	9	1,000
Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	2,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	1,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	173,000,000
Atok-Big Wedge.,Inc. B	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	2,000
Ayala Corp.	347.5	352.5	347.5	350	262,300
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	230,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.85	4.9	4.85	4.9	2,214,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	4,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.12	2.14	2.12	2.14	867,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	15,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.92	0.91	0.91	1,430,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	10,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.16	14,659,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	30,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	11,190,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	665,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	1,000,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	16,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	51	51	49	50	1,398,900
House Of Investments Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	130,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.7	3.65	3.7	650,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	11,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.32	1.34	1.3	1.34	5,031,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	70,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	12,380,000
Paxys Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	793,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	720,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1	1	122,000
SM Investments Corp.	245	246	245	246	22,350
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	4,790,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	80,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	500,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	221,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.06	1,703,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	10,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	26	26	26	26	700
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.54	470,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	180,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	350,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14.25	14.25	13.75	13.75	370,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,500
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	20,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.6	3,121,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	182,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	11,350,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	290,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	40,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	480,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	16,380,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	1,773,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	400,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.22	0.22	0.205	0.205	4,080,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.1	1,400,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6	6	6	6	128,000
SM Development Corp.	1.44	1.5	1.44	1.46	1,598,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	8.2	7.9	8.1	11,705,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	120,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	122,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.2	6.2	6	6	1,215,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.56	420,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.215	0.215	31,100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	8,040,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	451,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.031	0.029	0.031	134,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	51,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	2,879,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.64	1.68	1.62	1.64	6,605,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	28	28	765,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.28	0.31	0.28	0.29	2,370,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	1,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
Pacifica	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	12,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	66,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	1,450,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	40,000

PDEx GS BENCHMARKS

Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEx)
Friday, Dec. 2, 2005, (as of 4:30 p.m.)

Tenor	Today	Change from previous day	Change from previous week	Change from previous month
1M	5.7500	0.00	(0.25)	(0.63)
3M	5.8750	0.00	(0.13)	(0.53)
6M	7.5000	0.00	(0.05)	(0.50)
1Y	7.9875	0.05	0.11	(0.89)
2Y	9.0750	0.07.	(0.43)	(0.73)
3Y	9.3250	0.00	(0.48)	(0.88)
4Y	9.5000	0.00	(0.50)	(1.05)
5Y	9.2100	(0.41)	(0.65)	(1.49)
7Y	10.1000	0.00	(0.15)	(1.00)
10Y	10.7500	0.00	(0.25)	(1.00)
20Y	11.3750	(0.13)	(0.25)	(0.75)
25Y	11.8500	0.10	(0.15)	(0.65)

PDEx TRADING VOLUME

Instrument	Weekly Total Volume (in million PHP)
FXTNs	11,660.5
TBILLs	1,614.8
RTBs	260.0
TOTAL	13,535.3

NOTE: PDEx Benchmarks are calculated from the weighted average yields of done transactions, best midrates, or best firm bid rates as the case maybe for 12 tenors at 4 p.m. daily. The PDEx Benchmarks may be used to compare interest rate bases for loans, deposits and other financial instruments that have variable rates.

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,100,000/1,200,000*	1,050,000/1,100,000*
Alta Vista B/Corp.*	-	300,000/300,000*
Baguio Country Club	550,000	520,000
Calatagan Golf	Pls. Call	-
Camp John Hay	180,000	-
Canlubang Golf	550,000	500,000
Canyon Woods	120,000	-
Capitol Hills	70,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,300,000
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	400,000	-
Club Filipino	120,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	180,000/260,000**	150,000/290,000*
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	85,000	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	120,000/200,000*	-
Luisita Golf	Pls. Call	-
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	-
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	-
Manila Polo	2,150,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	370,000/Pls. Call*	300,000
Makati Sports Club	-	-
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	400,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	90,000
Mimosa C2/C3*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Mt. Malarayat A	230,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/Pls. Call*/400,000**	150,000
Puerto Azul	Pls. Call	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	-
Quezon City Sports Club	180,000	130,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*/250,000**	-
Rockwell Leisure Club	240,000	180,000
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/160,000**	80,000*
Spa & Lodge	530,000	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	1,100,000/1,600,000*
Subic Golf	Pls. Call	-
Subic Yacht Club	Pls. Call	-
The Palms Country Club	Pls. Call	280,000
Tagaytay Country Club	340,000	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands	730,000	680,000
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	600,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club	Pls. Call	-
Valley Golf	200,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	6,400,000	6,000,000

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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,200,000	-
Baguio Country Club	540,000	520,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	50,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	165,000
Canlubang	-	490,000
Canyon Woods	125,000	-
Capitol Hills	70,000	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,300,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	100,000
Club Filipino	140,000	-
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "A"	140,000	100,000
Forest Hills "B"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	-
Luisita Golf "A"	350,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	165,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	Please Call
Manila Golf (Individual)	11,600,000	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	370,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	720,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	400,000	300,000
Metroclub "A"	120,000	100,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	450,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	250,000	200,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	400,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	180,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "B"	350,000	280,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	430,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	130,000
Rockwell	Please Call	-
Spa & Lodge	530,000	450,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	1,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,600,000	-
Subic Bay Golf (Individual)	180,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	170,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	100,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	680,000	600,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	200,000	180,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,350,000	6,000,000

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FOREST HILLS B	200K	EAGLE RIDGE C	290K
MAKATI SPORTS	180K	MANILA POLO	2.050M
MT MALARAYAT C	350K	MANILA GOLF IND	11M
ORCHARD A	160K	ORCHARD B	250K
PUNTA FUEGO	400K	STA. ELENA B	1.4M
RIVIERA SPORTS	40K	SOUTHWOODS B	650K
SOUTHWOODS A	350K	WACK WACK	6M
SPA & LODGE	500K		
STA. ELENA GOLF A	1.2M		
TOWER CLUB C	300K		
VALLE VERDE	50K		

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BOI approves 1.29B in tax perks

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF Investments from January to November approved tax perks for mass housing projects worth P1.29 billion.

The tax perks covered a total of 8,483 housing units.

Peter B. Favila, Trade secretary and BOI chair, said that six real estate developers would enjoy tax holidays for their 19 mass housing projects.

Mandaluyong City-based Property Company of Friends accounted for eight developments with a total cost of P456.95 million.

Pro-Friends projects involved the construction of a total of 3,365 mass housing units in Cavite.

The Ayala Group's Laguna Properties Holdings Corp. is developing four projects with 1,101 housing units in Cavite, Naga City, Camarines Sur, and Quezon.

Firm Builders is developing four projects with a total of 1,339 housing units in Bacolod City, Iloilo City, Cagayan de Oro City and Bukidnon.

Basic Housing Solutions is developing 703 housing units in Pampanga, while Asiactic Development Corp. and the Lopez group each has a project in Laguna and Quezon City, respectively.

Favila said the BOI relaxed the 2005 IPP policy on the location of mass housing to allow developers to build projects in Metro Manila.

According to Elmer C. Hernandez of the Department of Trade, the main market for the proposed housing units are the lower middle income families who live and work in Quezon City and neighboring areas.

San Miguel seeks better franchise terms from Coca-Cola

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL CORP. and the Coca-Cola Company based in Atlanta will go back to the negotiating table in January to discuss a new franchise agreement that will allow SMC to continue bottling and selling the world's dominant soft drink brand in the Philippines.

Sources said the terms of the negotiation would determine whether or not San Miguel would agree to keep the Coke franchise or sell it back to the Coke Group.

SMC recently reported that the beverage brand posted weak performance over the last five years. SMC also cited the lack of marketing support from the Coca-Cola Group.

The San Miguel-Coke franchise deal will expire by the second quarter next year.

Under the agreement with Coke, San Miguel will take care of operating and distributing the brand, while the Coke Group will provide advertising support and promotional activities.

Analysts have mixed views on the prospects of the San Miguel-Coke beverage deal.

"I think Coke remains to be a good product locally," said Alfred Dy, head of research at CLSA Phils. "Lately they have been suffering from declines in volumes. I think SMC should maintain the franchise, provided visibility awareness of the brand is improved with more support from Coke Atlanta."

Jojo Gonzales of Philippine Equity Partners Inc. said San Miguel should try to negotiate for better terms.

If San Miguel will continue with Coke, they may want a better deal on ad spending, royalties, new products and cost cuts to be competitive," Gonzales said.

An analyst at a local research firm also said SMC and Coke should rethink their strategy since market share in the beverage industry has been shrinking due to the entry of new products.

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ABC-5 gets P500M in fresh funds for network upgrading

By Clarissa S. Batino

ABC DEVELOPMENT Corp., which operates ABC-5, received P500 million in fresh money to finance network upgrading, acquisition of new programs and payment of debts, a ranking official said.

The infusion came from Telemedia Business Ventures Inc. and Med Vision Resources Inc. which, according to sources, are both controlled by ABC majority owner Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco.

Regalado Galura, chief operating officer and executive vice president of ABC, said the money would be used to improve the station's ability to compete with bigger networks.

"Ratings and revenue have been increasing," said Galura in an interview.

Still short

Cojuangco had promised to pour in P1 billion into ABC-5 when he bought it in October 2003.

Insiders, however, said that even with the P500 million in new funds, total infusion had not reached P1 billion. Last year, the company said it shelled out P400 million for new cameras, editing equipment, 15 vehicles and two electronic news-gathering vans.

ABC-5 is a poor third in the industry dominated by GMA Network Inc. and ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

ABC-5 plans to introduce eight to 10 new shows, which Galura hoped would improve the network's ratings.

New programs

Galura said that aside from the Tagalog dubbed-National Geographic episodes, the other promising programs of the station were Shall We Dance (a dance variety show), Blind Item (show biz game show) and Totoo TV (a public affairs show).

He claimed that ABC-5 had shown improvement in reach and reception in the last two months after installing more transmitters.

Viewers complained that ABC-5's signal was inferior compared to the two major players.

Capital hike

In line with the infusion, ABC is increasing its capital stock to P2 billion from P750 million.

Telemedia infused fresh capital worth P300 million into ABC while Med Vision Resources Inc. subscribed to P200 million worth of stocks.

Telemedia's articles of incorporation named its directors as Florentino Hererra III, Mary Rogelyn Cabrera, Rosalynn Vergara, Raoul Sontillano and Marguerite Pascual. Med Vision is an investment house with the same directors as Telemedia.

ABC's biggest shareholders are DM Archer Ventures with 36 percent, Upbeam Investments with 32.5 percent and First Clark Leisure and Resort Holding Corp. with 30 percent.

UCPB PROPERTY MARKET

10% DOWNPAYMENT

FIXED 11% INTEREST

10 YEARS TO PAY

CHRISTMAS BONUS AUCTION

DEC.15, 2005 (THURSDAY), 11TH FLOOR, UCPB BLDG., MAKATI AVE., MAKATI CITY • REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. • AUCTION PROMPTLY STARTS AT 9:30 A.M.

PALACIO REAL
Calamba, Laguna
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

98sqm	P	155,700.00
150sqm	P	256,500.00
183sqm	P	263,700.00
200sqm	P	324,000.00
245sqm	P	419,400.00
277sqm	P	473,400.00
287sqm	P	516,600.00
334sqm	P	571,500.00
400sqm	P	612,000.00
528sqm	P	902,700.00

MT. MALARAYAT
Lipa City, Batangas

NON-FAIRWAY LOTS	
695sqm	P 1,689,300.00
729sqm	P 1,771,200.00
758sqm	P 1,842,300.00
787sqm	P 1,912,500.00
870sqm	P 2,114,100.00
FAIRWAY LOTS	
1,245sqm	P 3,112,500.00
1,301sqm	P 3,252,500.00
1,387sqm	P 3,467,500.00
1,459sqm	P 3,647,500.00
1,591sqm	P 3,977,500.00

ATLANTA CENTER
Annapolis, Greenhills, San Juan
OFFICE UNITS W/ PARKING

89sqm	P 2,514,600.00
101.87sqm	P 2,726,100.00
113.92sqm	P 3,349,800.00
124.29sqm	P 3,661,200.00
150.31sqm	P 4,230,900.00
181.19sqm	P 5,583,600.00
265.95sqm	P 9,183,600.00
466.28sqm	P15,832,800.00

PALM TOWER
San Antonio Village, Makati
RESIDENTIAL UNIT

63.77 sqm	P 1,862,084.00
73.61 sqm.	P 1,854,972.00
142.02 sqm.	P 3,681,158.40
152.02 sqm.	P 3,940,358.40
210.72 sqm.	P 5,461,862.40

PALM TOWER
San Antonio Village, Makati
COMMERCIAL UNIT

16.16sqm	P	322,718.40
21.00sqm	P	447,488.00
22.25sqm	P	569,600.00
26.85sqm	P	687,360.00
32.56sqm	P	521,216.00
49.94sqm	P	843,763.20
56.97sqm	P	1,151,308.80
58.10sqm	P	1,412,992.00

MANILA SOUTHWOODS
Carmona, Cavite
VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOT

1470 sqm.	P 1,692,000.00
486 sqm.	P 1,749,600.00
505 sqm.	P 1,818,000.00
563 sqm.	P 2,026,800.00
609 sqm.	P 2,192,400.00

COTTONWOODS HEIGHTS
Antipolo, Rizal
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

217sqm	P	659,680.00
242sqm	P	735,680.00
243sqm	P	738,720.00
304sqm	P	924,160.00
345sqm	P	1,048,800.00
359sqm	P	1,091,360.00
413sqm	P	1,225,520.00
459sqm	P	1,395,360.00

HILLS OF MAIA ALTA
Antipolo, Rizal
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

173sqm	P	484,400.00
177sqm	P	495,600.00
178sqm	P	498,400.00
195sqm	P	546,000.00
201sqm	P	562,800.00
254sqm	P	711,200.00
260sqm	P	728,000.00
313sqm	P	876,400.00
326sqm	P	912,800.00

TOWN AND COUNTRY
Dasmariñas, Cavite
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

170sqm	P	367,200.00
190sqm	P	410,400.00
195sqm	P	421,200.00
200sqm	P	432,000.00
270sqm	P	607,500.00
308sqm	P	693,000.00
338sqm	P	760,500.00
436sqm	P	981,000.00
479sqm	P	1,077,750.00
501sqm	P	1,127,250.00

TIERRA SOLARIEGA
Davao City
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

185sqm.	P	471,750.00
194sqm	P	494,700.00
405sqm	P	1,032,750.00
420sqm	P	1,071,000.00
453sqm	P	1,155,150.00
507sqm	P	1,379,040.00
515sqm	P	1,400,800.00
689sqm	P	1,756,950.00
653sqm	P	1,776,160.00

RICHWOOD PARK VILLAGE
San Pablo, Laguna
VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOTS

150 sqm.	P	280,800.00
238 sqm.	P	418,761.00
249 sqm.	P	438,115.50
300 sqm.	P	527,850.00

V&G BETTER HOMES SUBD.
Tacloban City, Leyte
VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOTS

297 sqm.	P	534,600.00
600 sqm.	P	918,000.00
613 sqm.	P	1,103,400.00
640 sqm	P	1,152,000.00
1,465 sqm.	P	1,611,500.00
2,964 sqm.	P	1,333,955.84

METRO MANILA

ANTIPOLO CITY
TEXT 0919-5094967

UCPB_ANT045 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 834 sqm.
Selford St., TOWN AND COUNTRY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,282,400.00

UCPB_ ANT052 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 2,296 sqm.
TOWN AND COUNTRY ESTATES
MIN. BID PRICE: P 6,281,100.00

BINANGONAN/ CAINTA / RIZAL
TEXT 0919-5094967

UCPB_RP165 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 204 sqm. (2 LOTS AVAILABLE)
Village East III, Darangan, BINANGONAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 293,400.00 each

UCPB_RP167 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,504 sqm.
Brgy. May-iba, TERESA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,245,600.00

LAS PIÑAS
TEXT - 0918-9048230

UCPB_LSP003 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 6,173 sqm. (Near TOYOTA)
ALABANG-ZAPOTE Road
MIN. BID PRICE: P 114,200,000

MAKATI CITY
TEXT - 0918-9048230

UCPB_MKT008 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 484 sqm.
L10 B3, Chino Roces Ave., KAYAMANAN "A"
MIN. BID PRICE: P 26,435,000.00

UCPB_MKT009 - TOWNHOUSE
L.A. 210.79 sqm.
Makati Prime City Saint Paul St.,
SAN ANTONIO VILLAGE
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,320,000.00

UCPB_MKT010 - PARKING SLOT
L.A. 12 sqm. (4 SLOTS AVAILABLE)
102 Aguirre St., LEGASPI VILLAGE
MIN. BID PRICE: P 401,400.00 each

UCPB_MKT014 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 478 sqm.
Kalayaan Corner Kawit St., STA. CRUZ
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,604,000.00

UCPB_MKT015 - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 129.62 sqm.
Unit 305, No. 1233 Capt. M. Reyes,
BANGKAL
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,915,200.00

MANDALUYONG CITY
TEXT - 0917-5506401

UCPB_MND016 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 312 sqm.
Sta. Lucia St., PLAINVIEW
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,708,000.00

MUNTINLUPA CITY
TEXT - 0920-9222495

UCPB_MUN023 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 500 sqm.
L19 B8, Along Cadiz St.,
SUSANA HEIGHTS SUBD.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,606,500.00

PARAÑAQUE CITY
TEXT - 0920-9222495

UCPB_PRQ025 - INDL LOT W/ OFFICE
L.A. 1671 sqm. & WAREHOUSE
East Service Road
SAN MARTIN DE PORRES
MIN. BID PRICE: P 33,579,000.00

UCPB_PRQ174 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A.553.45 sqm.
Jose Abad Santos St.,
BAYVIEW VILLAGE
MIN. BID PRICE: P 5,738,400.00

UCPB_PSY026 - CONDO UNIT
L.A.144.70 sqm. W/ PARKING
Unit 908 9th flr.,
CHATEAU DE BAIE CONDO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,220,000.00

PASIG CITY
TEXT - 0917-5457357

UCPB_PSG027 - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 273.71 sqm. W/ PARKING
PARK CHATEAU cor. GARNET &
SAPPHIRE
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,536,000.00

QUEZON CITY
TEXT - 0917-8948680

UCPB_QC031 - RSDL W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 160 sqm.
Jade St., SILVERLAND SUBD.,
Tandang Sora
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,838,700.00

UCPB_QC032 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 103 sqm.
Moses St., GOODWILL HOMES,
Bagbag, Novaliches
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,150,000.00

UCPB_QC034 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 96 sqm. W/ IMPRVT
METROGREEN VILLAGE, Bagabag,
Novaliches
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,340,100.00

LUZON

ALBAY
TEXT - 0920-4615471

UCPB_ABY044 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 204 sqm.
Lot 1, La Playa Village, LEGASPI CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 576,000.00

BATANGAS
TEXT - 0917-5443063

UCPB_ BAT058 - INDUSTRIAL LOT
L.A. 32,960 sqm. W/ WAREHOUSE
Lot 9806, Brgy. Pusil, LIPA CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,703,000.00

UCPB_BAT062 - 3 UNITS HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 649 sqm.
MIRACLE HEIGHTS SUBD. Lipa City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 15,552,000.00

UCPB_BAT063 - AGRO-INDL LOT
L.A. 10,003 sqm.
Brgy. San Felipe, PADRE GARCIA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,691,000.00

UCPB_BAT064 - AGRI LAND
L.A. 61,815 sqm.
Brgy. Pangao Cumba, LIPA CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 7,137,000.00

UCPB_BAT065 - 6UNITS 2STOREY
APRT. & 3UNITS 2STOREY
COMMERCIAL BLDG.
L.A. 1,145 sqm.
Lot 1018, Brgy. San Sebastian, LIPA CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 7,434,000.00

UCPB_BAT066 - GAS STATION
L.A. 755 sqm.
Along Gen. Luna ATHENIANS,
Sabang, Lipa City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 6,699,600.00

BAGUIO CITY

UCPB_BAG175 - VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A.375 (VARIOUS)
VISTA VERDE HEIGHTS VIRAC, Itogon
MIN. BID PRICE: P206,253.78 / 550 per sqm.

BULACAN
TEXT - 0927-3333733

UCPB_BLN069 - RSDL LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 221 sqm.
3rd St., Bo. Fatima, Sapang Palay, SJDM
MIN. BID PRICE: P 288,000.00

UCPB_BLN071 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 146 sqm.
AYUKIT SUBD.,Brgy.Binang 2nd &
Turo, Bocaue
MIN. BID PRICE: P 231,300.00

UCPB_BLN072 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 206 sqm.
AYUKIT SUBD.,Brgy.Binang 2nd &
Turo, Bocaue
MIN. BID PRICE: P 326,700.00

UCPB_BLN073 - RICE MILL W/ 3
STOREY COMML BLDG. 8 DOORS-
2 STOREY COMML BLDG.
L.A. 1,874 sqm.
Lot 1229-A, Brgy. Tuktukan, GUIGUINTO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 27, 920, 000.00

UCPB_BLN076 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 347 sqm. W/ IMPRVT
Assumption Road, SAPANG PALAY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 440,100.00

UCPB_BLN077 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 209 sqm.
Avocado St., Area F,
Bo. Sapang Palay, SJDM
MIN. BID PRICE: P 288,000.00

CAGAYAN VALLEY
TEXT - 0919-8203838

UCPB_CYN078 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 3,511 sqm.
Lot 2437, Brgy. Ugac Sur,
TUGUEGARAO CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 24,448,500.00

CAMARINES NORTE/SUR
TEXT - 0921-6422464

UCPB_CMS083 - RICE MILL W/
L.A. 2,837 sqm. WAREHOUSE
San Isidro, CALABANGA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 6,300,000.00

CAVITE
TEXT - 0918-9048230

UCPB_CVT087 - CONDOMINIUM
F.A. 182.88 sqm.
Southwoods Villa, CARMONA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,818,700.00

UCPB_CVT088 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 1,238 sqm. W/ IMPRVT
VILLA RAMIREZ SUBD.,
Brgy. Tabon, Kawit
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,016,800.00

UCPB_CVT095 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 534 sqm.
Lot 72 Blk 54, Manila Southwoods,
CARMONA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,922,400.00

UCPB_CVT096 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 3,324 sqm.
Macaria Business Center,
Brgy. Poblacion, CARMONA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 21,539,700.00

UCPB_CVT097 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 4,999 sqm.
Macaria Business Center,
Brgy. Poblacion, CARMONA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 32,393,700.00

UCPB_CVT098 - CONDOMINIUM
F.A. 71 sqm.
UNIT 61B, VISTA DE LORO HEIGHTS,
Puerto Azul
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,346,400.00

UCPB_CVT248 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,141 sqm.
Punta Del Rio Resorts & Country Club,
GARDEN COAST SUBD., Tanza
Min Bid Price: P 5,140,800.00

ISABELA
TEXT - 0919-8203838

UCPB_ISA101 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 501 sqm.
Babista Village Calao East,
SANTIAGO CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 480,000.00

UCPB_ISA102 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 188 sqm. W/ IMPRVT
National Road, Barangay Villasis,
SANTIAGO CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,990,000.00

UCPB_ISA104 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 650 sqm. W/ IMPRVT
Bo. Batal, SANTIAGO CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 469,000.00

UCPB_ISA105 - PIGGERY
L.A. 32,357 sqm.
Bo. Del Pilar, ALICIA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 18,867,000.00

LAGUNA
TEXT - 0919-5801558

UCPB_LGN111 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A.433 sqm.
CARDIL VILLAGE, San Pablo
MIN. BID PRICE: P 945,000.00

UCPB_LGN118 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 2,078 sqm.
Brgy. San Francisco, SAN PABLO CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 11,530,000.00

UCPB_LGN122 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 370 sqm. W/ IMPRVT
Lot 6 Blk 13, Mahalina St.,
San Antonio, SAN PEDRO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,944,000.00

UCPB_LGN123 - AGRO-INDL LOT
L.A. 60,000 sqm.
Bo. Palasan, STA. CRUZ
MIN. BID PRICE: P 7,580,000.00

UCPB_LGN124 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 335 sqm W/ IMPRVT
ADELINA AGRI-VILL.,
Bo. of Banca-Banca, Victoria
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,862,000.00

NAGA CITY
TEXT - 0921-6422464

UCPB_NC126 - 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 600 sqm.
Sorano St., VILLA SORABELLA SUBD
MIN. BID PRICE: P 5,103,000.00

UCPB_ NC127 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 5,000 sqm.
Lot 3-B-4-C, Brgy. Triangulo,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 18,000,000.00

UCPB_ NC128 - COMML / RSDL LOT
L.A. 5,500 sqm.
Brgy. Mabulo, NAGA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,910,000.00

UCPB_ NC129 - COMML / RSDL LOT
L.A. 5,000 sqm.
Brgy. Mabulo, NAGA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 6,300,000.00

UCPB_ NC130 - GAS STATION W/
BODEGA & WAREHOUSE
L.A. 10,000 sqm.
Brgy. Mabulo, NAGA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 20,700,000.00

UCPB_NC133 - COMML / RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,378 sqm.
Along Nationall Rd., Labo,
CAMARINES NORTE
MIN. BID PRICE: P 15,930,000.00

UCPB_NC135 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 2,833 sqm.
ROLIVILLE SUBD., Bo. Tambo,
Pamplona
MIN. BID PRICE: P 853,200

QUEZON PROVINCE
TEXT - 0920-9222495

UCPB_QP139 - RSDL LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 981 sqm.
LIC COMPOUND,
Brgy. Gulang-Gulang, Lucena
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,820,000.00

UCPB_QP141 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 300 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 2, Brgy. Lagalag, TIAONG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 67,500.00

UCPB_QP142 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 258 sqm.
Brgy. Pahinga Norte, CANDELARIA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 75,400.74

UCPB_QP143 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 220 sqm.
Brgy. Pahinga Norte, CANDELARIA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 72,332.10

UCPB_QP144 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 250 sqm.
SAN ISIDRO SUBD.,
Brgy. Gulang-gulang, Lucena
MIN. BID PRICE: P 484,524.85

UCPB_QP145 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 180 sqm.
SAN ISIDRO SUBD.,
Brgy. Gulang-gulang, Lucena
MIN. BID PRICE: P 387,619.88

UCPB_QP146 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 480 sqm.
Purok Matahimik, Brgy. Cotta,
LUCENA CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,881,000.00

UCPB_QP147 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 266 sqm. W/ IMPRVT
MARILAG COMPOUND, Brgy.
Gulang-Gulang, Lucena
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,161,000.00

UCPB_QP148 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 300 sqm.
Brgy. Lagalag, TIAONG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 72,900.00

UCPB_QP149 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 3,959 sqm.
Bo. Dumacaa, LUCENA CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,070,000.00

UCPB_QP150 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 200 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 3, Brgy. Pahinga Norte,
CANDELARIA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 58,450.18

UCPB_QP151 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 300 sqm.
Purok Matahimik, Cotta, LUCENA CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 710,149.86

UCPB_QP152 - 15 DOOR APARTMENT
L.A. 11,468 sqm. (Dilapidated)
Purok Matahimik, Cotta, LUCENA CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,475,000

UCPB_QP155 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 374 sqm.
CAPITOL HOMESITE SUBD., Cotta,
Lucena City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,543,500.00

UCPB_QP157 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 300 sqm.
Brgy. Lagalag, TIAONG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 67,500.00

UCPB_QP158 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 300 sqm.
WEST GATE SUBD.,
Brgy. Lagalag, Tiaong
MIN. BID PRICE: P 72,000.00

UCPB_QP159 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 17,129 sqm.
Brgy. Isabang, TAYABAS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 10,404,000.00

UCPB_QP160 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 216 sqm.
Brgy. Pahinga Norte, CANDELARIA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 63,126.20

UCPB_QP161 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 261 sqm.
Brgy. Pahinga Norte, CANDELARIA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 85,812.18

UCPB_QP162 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 200 sqm.
Brgy. Pahinga Norte, CANDELARIA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 58,450.18

UCPB_QP163 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 4,431 sqm (Along National Road)
Brgy. Iyam, LUCENA CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,370,000.00

UCPB_QP164 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 1508 sqm. (Along National Road)
Brgy. Iyam, LUCENA CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,261,500.00

UCPB_QP - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 5,074 sqm.
Quezon Ave., LUCENA CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 22,500,000.00

TAGAYTAY
TEXT - 0917-5443063

UCPB_TGY169 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 11,572 sqm.
Brgy. Maharlika East, TAGAYTAY CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 15,120,000.00

TARLAC
TEXT - 0927-7981340

UCPB_TLC171 - INDUSTRIAL LOT
L.A. 18,432 sqm. W/ IMPRVT
Lot1-B, BRGY. SAN JUAN DE MATA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,348,000.00

UCPB_TLC172 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 712 sqm.
VILLA SOLIMAN SUBD.,
Brgy. Salapungan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,543,400.00

VISAYAS

AKLAN
TEXT - 0920-6186282

UCPB_AKN175 - RAWLAND
L.A. 18,245 sqm.
Lot E-7-C-2, Brgy. Bulwang, NUMANCIA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,285,000.00

UCPB_AKN178 - MEMORIAL PARK
L.A. 41,867 sqm.
Bo. Tigayon, KALIBO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 10,287,000.00

UCPB_AKN177 - COMML / RSDL LOT
L.A. 460.50 sqm.
Roxas Ave. Ext, Brgy. Andagao, KALIBO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,196,000.00

UCPB_AKN189 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 240 sqm.
MERCEDES VILLAGE, Kalibo
Min Bid Price: P935,000

UCPB_AKN 190VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 266 sqm.
MERCEDES VILLAGE, Kalibo
Min Bid Price: P310,500

UCPB_AKN191 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 240 sqm.
MERCEDES VILLAGE, Kalibo
Min Bid Price: P279,000

UCPB_AKN 192 VACANT
RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 480 sqm.
MERCEDES VILLAGE, Kalibo
Min Bid Price: P558,000

UCPB_AKN193 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 480 sqm.
MERCEDES VILLAGE, Kalibo
Min Bid Price: P801,000

UCPB_AKN194 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,001 sqm.
MERCEDES VILLAGE, Kalibo
Min Bid Price: P135,000

UCPB_AKN195 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 844 sqm.
(along Boracay National Road)
Brgy. Manoc Manoc, BORACAY
Min Bid Price: P1,831,500

UCPB_AKN196 GAS STATION w/
OFFICE/ WAREHOUSE
L.A. 6,058 sqm.
Nat'l Road, BRGY. CATICLAN, Malay
Min Bid Price: P10,845,000

UCPB VACANT LOT
L.A. 4,688.00
Brgy. Caticlan, Malay
Min. Bid Price: P 1,156,000

ANTIQUE
TEXT - 0920-6186282

UCPB_ATQ178 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 16,182 sqm.
Brgy. San Pedro, SAN JOSE
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,002,500.00

BACOLOD
TEXT - 0926-6256957

UCPB_BAC186 - SUGARLAND
L.A. 90,564 sqm.
(w/in Hacienda Guadalupe)
Lot 2138-E, Brgy. Central Ma-Ao,
BAGO CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,630,000.00

UCPB_BAC187 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,000 sqm. W/ IMPRVT
Lot 2 Blk 5, SAN SEBASTIAN SUBD.,
Bacolod City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 640,000.00

UCPB_BAC 88 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,000 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 5, SAN SEBASTIAN SUBD.,
Bacolod City
MIN. BID PRICE: 595,000.00

UCPB_BAC207 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,785sqm
Zircon St. City Hts, Subd. Brgy.
Taculing
Min Bid Price: P 2,916,000.00

UCPB_BAC208 1STRY RSDL BLDG
L.A. 780sqm.
RHO & PHI St. GREENVILLE SUBD.
Min Bid Price: P 2,160,000.00

UCPB_BAC209 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,000sqm
C. Hidalgo Drive, MARAPARA HTS. SUBD
Min Bid Price: P 1,275,000.00

UCPB_BAC210 COMML BLDG
L.A. 775sqm
Nat'l Rd. GATUSLAO ST. POB.4
Min Bid Price: P 3,663,000.00

UCPB_BAC211 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 4,364sqm
ACACIA SUBD. Brgy. Gargalo
Min Bid Price: P 234,000.00

UCPB_BAC212 2 STRY RSDL BLDG
L.A. 356sqm
P. KATILINGBAN Zone 3. Bata Subd.
Min Bid Price: P 1,476,000.00

CAPIZ
TEXT - 0920-6186282

UCPB_CPZ179 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 380 sqm.
MERIAM SUBD., Brgy. Baybay,
Roxas City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 508,500.00

UCPB_CPZ198 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 329 sqm.
MERIAM PARK SUBD., Roxas City
Min. Bid Price: P414,000

UCPB_CPZ199 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 600 sqm.
PARAGON SUBD., Roxas City
Min. Bid Price: P 562,500

UCPB_CPZ200 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 186 sqm
PARAGON SUBD., Roxas City
Min. Bid Price: P75,330

UCPB_CPZ201 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 257 sqm
PARAGON SUBD., Roxas City
Min. Bid Price: P80,295.30

UCPB_CPZ - VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 140 sqm.
PARAGON SUBD. Roxas City
Min. Bid Price: P 48,195.00

UCPB_CPZ - VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 173 sqm.
PARAGON SUBD. Roxas City
Min. Bid Price: P 63,058.50

CEBU
TEXT - 0926-6256957

UCPB_CBU181 - COMMERCIAL /
RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,080 sqm.
Brgy. Poblacion, MANDAUE CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 10,200,000.00

UCPB_CBU182 - 2-STOREY
COMMERCIAL BLDG.
L.A. 508 sqm.
Colon & Boromeo St.,
BRGY. PAHINA CENTRAL
MIN. BID PRICE: P 6,900,000.00

UCPB_CBU202 VACANT COMML LOT
L.A. 38,755 sqm
TRANSCENTRAL HWAY, Brgy. Busay
Min. Bid Price: P22,400,000

ILOILO CITY
TEXT-09206186282

UCPB_ILO184 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A.13,144 sqm.
Lot 4255, Brgy. Poblacion Ilaya,
CALINOG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,326,000.00

UCPB_ ILO185 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 6,521 sqm.
Lot 4432-A-5-1-A-3-E, Brgy.
Poblacion Ilaya, CALINOG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,494,750.00

UCPB_ILO203 VACANT LOT
L.A. 10,000 sqm
JC Zulueta St., Oton
Min. Bid Price: P5,040,000

MINDANAO

BUKIDNON
TEXT - 0921-7388885

UCPB_BKN189 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 263 sqm.
Sumpong, MALAYBALAY CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 95,000.00

UCPB_BKN190 - AGRICULTURAL LOT
L.A. 2,401 sqm.
Lumbo, VALENCIA CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 431,648.74

UCPB_BKN191 - AGRICULTURAL LOT
L.A. 969 sqm.
Lumbo, VALENCIA CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 174,205.59

UCPB_BKN192 - AGRICULTURAL LOT
L.A. 969 sqm.
Lumbo, VALENCIA CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 174,205.59

UCPB_BKN193 - AGRICULTURAL LOT
L.A. 2,169 sqm.
Lumbo, VALENCIA CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 389,940.07

CAGAYAN DE ORO
TEXT - 0921-7388885

UCPB_CDO233 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 729 sqm.
Lot7 Blk 23, XAVIER ESTATES, CDO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,924,000.00

UCPB_ CDO 238 - 1-STRY RSDL BLDG.
L.A. 960 sqm.
Kauswagan, CDO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 720,000.00

UCPB_ CDO240 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 236 sqm.
Interior of Bulua, CDO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 216,000.00

UCPB_ CDO 241 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 523 sqm.
Sitio Biasong, Bo. Macasandig, CDO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 234,000.00

UCPB_ CDO 242 - AGRICULTURAL LOT
L.A. 75,982 sqm.
Upper Dolawon, Lumbia, CDO
MIN BID PRICE: P 5,796,000.00

COTABATO
TEXT - 0919-2853012

UCPB_CBT204 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 460 sqm.
Quezon Ave., POBLACION
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,910,000.00

UCPB_CBT206 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 2,700 sqm.
Gutierez Avenue
MIN. BID PRICE: P 15,370,000.00

UCPB_CBT207 - 1-STRY RSDL BLDG.
L.A. 410 sqm.
ROSARY HEIGHTS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,062,000.00

UCPB_CBT208 - 4 UNITS
COMMERCIAL BLDG. W/ FIRE
BRIGADE SHED
L.A. 1,794 sqm.
JOSE LIM SR. ST.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 14,751,000.00

UCPB_CBT209 - 1-STRY RSDL BLDG.
L.A. 416 sqm.
BAÑAS SUBDIVISION, Rosary Heights
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,080,000.00

UCPB_CBT210 - 1 UNIT COMML BLDG.
L.A. 860 sqm.
DOÑA LUTGARDA BLANCO ST.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 5,760,000.00

UCPB_CBT211 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 315 sqm.
ARTIEDA SUBD., Koronadal
MIN. BID PRICE: P 170,100.00

UCPB_CBT212 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 506 sqm.
CASA SUBD., Koronadal
MIN. BID PRICE: P 258,400.00

UCPB_CBT213 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 228 sqm.
GUANZON SUBD., Brgy. Morales,
Koronadal
MIN. BID PRICE: P 77,350.00

UCPB_CBT214 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,039 sqm.
GUANZON SUBD., Brgy. Morales,
Koronadal
MIN. BID PRICE: P 288,000.00

UCPB_CBT215 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,000 sqm.
CASA SUBD., Koronadal
MIN. BID PRICE: P 400,500.00

UCPB_CBT217 - AGRICULTURAL LOT
L.A. 4,908 sqm.
Brgy. San Isidro, KORONADAL CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 416,500.00

UCPB_CBT218 - INDUSTRIAL LOT
L.A. 4,374 sqm. W/ IMPRVT
Bo. Sto. Niño, KORONADAL CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,125,800.00

LANAO DEL NORTE
TEXT - 0919-2853012

UCPB_LDN229 -2-STOREY
INDUSTRIAL BLDG.
L.A. 20,467 sqm.
Brgy. Tipanoy, ILIGAN CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 15,277,500.00

UCPB_LDN230 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 768 sqm. (Along Macapagal Ave.)
Camague, Tominobo, ILIGAN CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,214,000.00

DAVAO
TEXT - 0918-4005360

UCPB_DAV222 - AGRICULTURAL LOT
L.A. 88,762 sqm.
Talomo Dst., DAVAO CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 75,600,000.00

UCPB_ DAV219 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 126 sqm.
DINA VILL SUBDIVISION, Ma-a
MIN. BID PRICE: P 90,350.06

UCPB_ DAV223 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 381 sqm.
Brgy. Matiao, Mati
MIN. BID PRICE: P 162,225.42

UCPB_ DAV224 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 363 sqm.
Brgy. Matiao, Mati,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 154,561.22

UCPB_DAV225 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 334 sqm.
Brgy. Matiao, Mati
MIN. BID PRICE: P 142,213.36

UCPB_DAV227 - INDUSTRIAL LOT
W/ WAREHOUSE
L.A. 85,086 sqm (Along Nat'l Hi-way)
BRGY. BUNAWAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 43,400,000.00

UCPB_DAV250 AGRI LOT
L.A. 12,232 sqm.
Brgy. Communal, Buhangin, Davao
Min. Bid Price: P 2,476,754.15

UCPB_DAV251 AGRI LOT
L.A. 12,227 sqm.
Brgy. Communal, Buhangin, Davao
Min Bid Price: P 2,475,742.64

UCPB_DAV252 AGRI LOT
L.A. 20,000 sqm
Brgy. Communal, Buhangin, Davao
Min. Bid Price: P 4,050,035.60

MISAMIS ORIENTAL
TEXT - 0921-7388885

UCPB_MO231 - AGRICULTURAL LOT
L.A. 33,576 sqm.
Bo. Pagahan, INITAO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 10,110,000.00

UCPB_MO232 - AGRICULTURAL LOT
L.A. 17,899 sqm.
Bo. Taytay, EL SALVADOR
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,412,000.00

UCPB_MO239 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,015,725 sqm.
Sitio Tulahon, Bo. Malanang, OPOL
MIN. BID PRICE: P 77,157,000.00

SULTAN KUDARAT

UCPB_SK243 - 3-STRY
COMMERCIAL BLDG.
L.A. 340 sqm.
TACURONG CITY, Isulan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 7,870,000.00

SURIGAO DEL NORTE

UCPB_SDN244 - 1-STOREY
RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL BLDG
L.A. 541 sqm.
Borromeo St., SURIGAO CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,140,000.00

UCPB_SDN245 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 450 sqm.
Brgy. Cagniog, SURIGAO CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 67,500.00

UCPB_SDN248 - 1-STOREY
RESIDENTIAL BLDG.
L.A. 757 sqm
QUANO CENIZA HTS. SUBD.,
Surigao City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,130,000.00

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PTT expanding RP operations

By Abigail L. Ho

THAILAND'S PTT PUBLIC CO. will be expand its Philippine operations by building a depot in Cebu, establishing more retail outlets and providing aviation fuel for the yet-to-be-opened Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

PTT corporate business development executive vice president Tarin Vongvanich said the company's board had approved a new wholesale and retail marketing plan for the Philippines.

The plan is anchored on the establishment of a depot in Cebu, which will effectively reinforce PTT's wholesale and retail marketing efforts in the country.

Vongvanich said the company would form a joint venture with a local partner to further boost its retail presence, particularly in preparation for the construction of at least 50 new retail stations in the next five years.

PTT was also looking at putting up a big station along the expressway, similar to existing stations by top four players Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc. and Total (Philippines) Corp., he said.

The company is also exploring the possibility of bringing a range of new products into the Philippine market, including its line of lubricants that are quite popular in Thailand.

But, as with any business decision, Vongvanich said PTT was carefully looking at the investment climate and the business environment here before actually shelling out some cash.

"We have to be careful. We're monitoring the economy and the oil price situation. We want a win-win situation for the Philippines and Thailand," he said.

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	as of Nov. 24, 2005	as of Dec. 01, 2005
Philamlife Dollar Bond Fund	US$ 1.0895	US$ 1.1041
Philamlife Global Bond Fund	US$ 1.0377	US$ 1.0454

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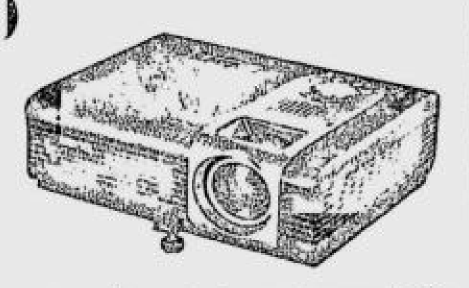

MEET THE NEW ACCENT

Hyundai paves the road for the rebirth of ACCENT. The New Accent struts the streets with its stylish blend of refinement, toughness, integrity, flexibility, and eco-friendliness guaranteed to be a winning package for its worldwide customers. With Hyundai's most impressive history of market dominance and uncompromised innovativeness, along with its adoption of meaningful technology, the New Accent is refined to be simply outstanding.

It all began with the Pony in 1975. The first generation Accent stormed the market, making Hyundai the leading car maker in Korea. Seven years later, the Pony had undergone a facelift that captured overseas attention that set off the new model launch of Pony Excel later in 1985. Astounding progress continued with the 1989 refreshed new model followed shortly by the introduction of the Accent in 1994, carrying on Hyundai's remarkable story. After 5 years, Hyundai gave Accent a new birth making it a premium small car equipped with class-leading safety features and performances ably keeping its success from their very first model.

Now, Hyundai welcomes the New Accent -the 6th generation of cars to finally surge the long-waiting streets. The New Accent transcends each preceding model taking into full account the higher expectations of its customers across all markets. It offers lower NVH, higher fuel efficiency, improved ride, road-holding and performance, superior ergonomics, and comfort features all clad in elegant styling.

EXTERIOR STYLING

The New Accent has a clean, sleek, and modern styling that equates to its high quality. The rounded and well proportioned lines, moderately flared wheel arches, strong shoulder lines, wide spaced hood character lines, and flowing windscreen treatment give the impression of character, dynamism, and strength with a sporty nature. Looks great in the showroom but irresistible in the streets.

Solid appeal also comes from its smooth side profile, well proportioned doors, a distinctive waist line molding, and sophisticated aerodynamics. A true profile of character marked by strength and charisma.

INTERIOR STYLING

Comforting, practical, and stylish interiors await the New Accent driver. New shades and textures add a fresh ambience to fully match its exceptional exteriors. It is furnished with a wrap-around styling, finely tempered metal garnish, versatile crash pad, and a unique center fascia -all contributing to ample interior space, driving comfort, and control.

Front passenger environment is composed of an enhances instrument panel with larger meters and gauges with easier to read LED lit instruments, cooling and heating controls along with power outlets, are strategically arranged for optimal convenience.

The New Accent provides exceptional personal storage for front and rear passengers. Door mounted map pockets, deep glove box and front seat back pockets, are all accessible. Also having more headroom, higher seating position, enlarged shoulder and hip room, the well organized and well illuminated spaciousness of the New Accent gives its passengers an experience at par with morel luxurious cars.

PERFORMANCE

The New Accent's state-of-the-art technology harmonizes economy and power for further mileage, reliability, and longevity. It has a redesigned 5-speed manual gearbox that combines fuel economy, acceleration, smoothness, and power.

The new 1.5 VGT diesel engine is truly state-of-the-art having been designed and developed with input from the Hyundai Motor Company R&D facility in Rüsselheim.

SAFETY

Passive and active safety is apparent in the New Accent. Reinforced bulkheads, pillars and side impact structures, front three-point seatbelts with dual pre-tensioners, and load limiters assure confidence under any condition.

CONVENIENCE

Excellent interior air management is a hallmark of the New Accent. Cooling and ventilation controls are easily reached and managed.

Six-speaker entertainment system has also been perfected by its engineers to deliver superb sound to its interiors.

The all new Hyundai Accent is priced at P 748, 000.00. Available at Hyundai dealerships nationwide, the Accent comes in six exciting colors: Ebony Black, Space Silver, Midnight Gray, Wine Red, Gold Beige, and Blue Onyx.

ADVT

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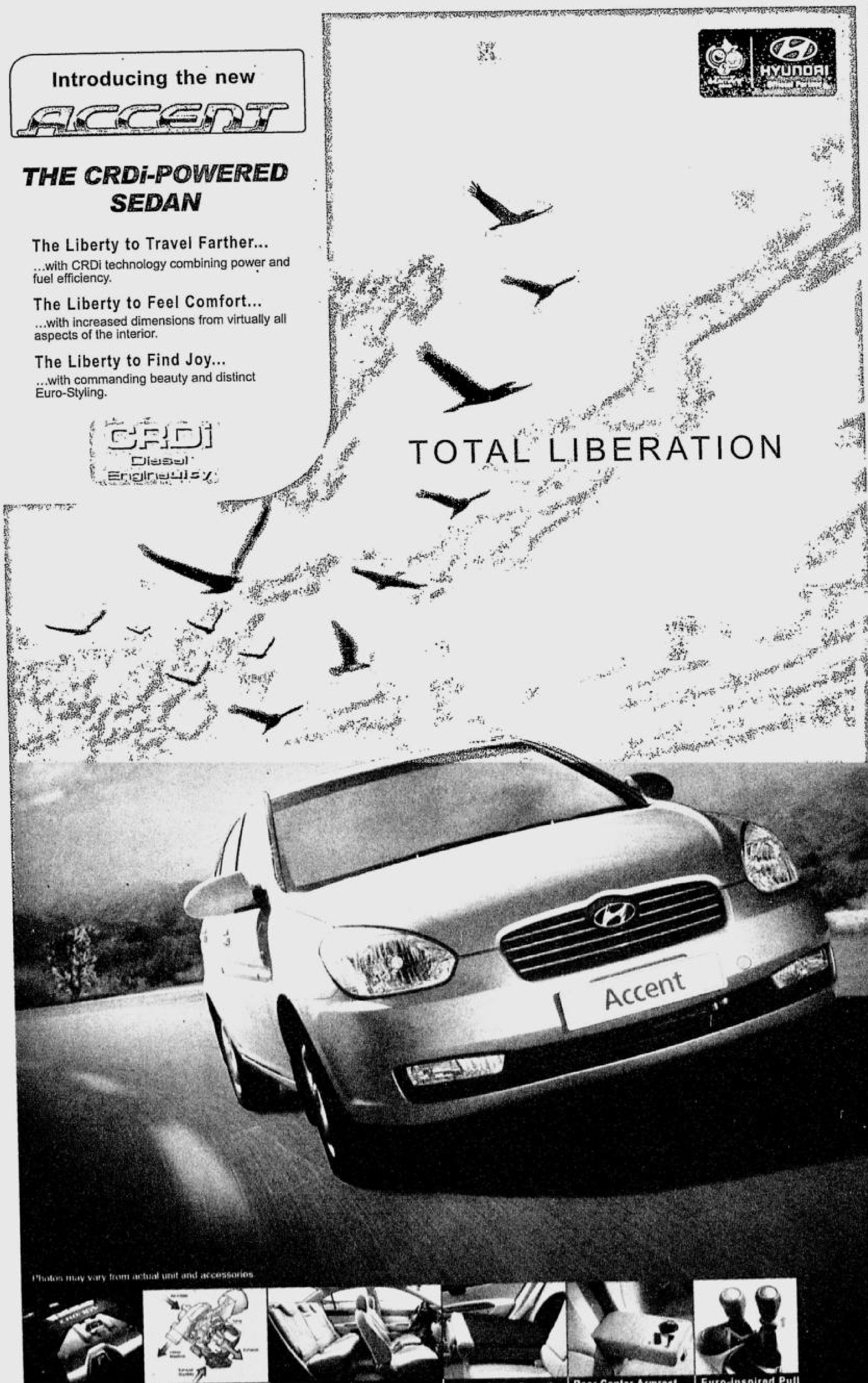
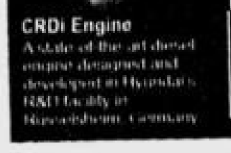
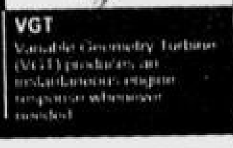
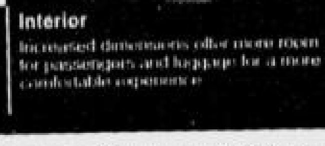
CRDi Diesel Engineering

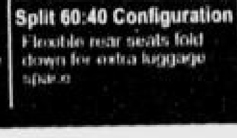


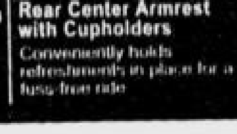
Photos may vary from actual unit and accessories

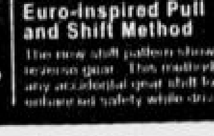

CRDi Engine
A state-of-the-art diesel engine designed and developed in Hyundai's R&D facility in Russelsheim, Germany


VGT
Variable Geometry Turbine (VGT) produces an instantaneous engine response whenever needed


Interior
Increased dimensions offer more room for passengers and luggage for a more comfortable experience


Split 60:40 Configuration
Flexible rear seats fold down for extra luggage space


Rear Center Armrest with Cupholders
Conveniently holds refreshments in place for a fuss-free ride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Anti-Muslim bias in insurance

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE WORLD BANK, NO LESS, HAS reported that anti-Muslim bias is one of the major causes of the Muslim revolt in certain provinces in Mindanao.

The insurance industry has discriminated—if we must use this word—against our Muslim brothers and sisters for decades. When I went to Davao City in 1956 to run the Mindanao district office of an insurance group, I was on strict orders never to insure a Muslim under any kind of policy, especially a life insurance policy. In my entire four-year stint in Davao City, I never insured a Muslim anywhere in Mindanao.

But it was not racial discrimination. It was, simply, sound business sense.

It was difficult to insure, say, a retail store owned by a Muslim. It was usually located in a heavily congested area, exposed to the risk of conflagration. And, even if the store were located in an upscale area, the Muslim owner hardly kept records. In case of a claim, it would have been almost impossible to verify the loss. Finally, the Muslim was reputed, rightly or wrongly, as "hard to talk to."

A life insurance policy could lead to more serious problems. In case of a death claim, it was extremely difficult to identify the cadaver by documentary evidence. A birth certificate was needed to determine the real age of the insured at the time the policy was issued, and, more important, to identify the deceased. But a birth certificate could not be presented because the deceased was born at home and the blessed event was never recorded at the civil registrar's office. Affidavits of witnesses at birth were also useless.

Even if the identity of the cadaver could be verified, there was the equally contentious problem of identifying the beneficiary. No marriage certificate could be presented because the Muslim marriage was never entered into the civil registry. Also, the company could be facing the problem of determining who of the several widows was the beneficiary named in the policy.

Then, the late insured might have divorced the wife named in the policy. There was no record of the event because, under Muslim law, the husband could get rid of his wife by simply telling her, "I divorce you, I divorce you, and I divorce you."

To this day, there continues to be a widespread perception in the insurance industry, drawn from painful experience, that once a policy is issued to a Muslim, he will try to pull a fast one on the company.

Some years ago, there was a personal accident policy that, somehow, was issued to a Muslim. Soon enough, a death claim was filed. The claims manager, a dear friend of mine, asked to see the beneficiary. He came. The manager looked at him and asked, "Aren't you the one here pictured inside the coffin as the dead insured?" The beneficiary meekly went away.

This incident is not an isolated case. As a result, insurance companies consider a Muslim a moral hazard, which is simply not insurable.

Today, although there are over 32,000 life insurance agents deployed all over the archipelago, not a single one, as far as I know, is a Muslim. Also, there is not a single Muslim employed in the offices of the 150 insurance companies operating in the country.

What does this all mean? This means that our Muslim brothers and sisters are unable to enjoy the benefits of insurance. On the micro level, when the father of the family passes away, the widow is left with nothing with which to take care of the children. On the macro level, the insurance companies do not harness the savings of the Muslim community. These harnessed savings help to develop the country.

The Muslim communities in Mindanao have yet to enter the modern era. One of the major characteristics of a modern society is a robust insurance industry in its midst, with aggressive agents in every street corner waylaying, so to speak, prospective buyers.

I doubt whether the anti-Muslim bias in the insurance industry is one of the causes of the rebellion. I hear Islam forbids insurance, anyway. Nonetheless, if our Muslim brothers and sisters wish to enjoy the benefits of insurance, they just have to learn to qualify—as non-Muslims do.

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Cocktales

From page B3

do-based and reputedly the country's biggest wholesaler-distributor of consumer goods.

Suy Sing, according to the grapevine, has cemented decades-long partnership with SAFI, through the profitable distributorship of SAFI's UFC catsup and Datu Puti vinegar, among other condiments.

Golden Chamber is more interesting. It was identified as the investment holding company held by, hmmm, the "Campos Family Trust."

Allow him to be Frank

COCKTALES ran a two-paragraph "Heard through the grapevine" item on Friday saying former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez lost the Ombudsman case he filed against GMA adviser Roberto R. Romulo for failure to present "not a single piece of evidence."

In return, Chavez fired off a steaming email, which we are reprinting in full glory, save for minor editing:

"You are correct. I did not lose all the government policy cases during my watch as Solicitor General. I lost only 7 ... out of 81 government policy cases ... a batting average of about 92 percent victories in Supreme Court cases.

"...Since I returned to private practice, our law firm's batting average of victories in cases is 87 percent.

"My and my law firm's record and competence as litigators cannot be gauged or whittled down by this strange and erroneous dismissal by the Ombudsman of my complaint against Roberto R. Romulo.

"The dismissal ... looks like a midnight decision of Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo whose stint as Ombudsman attains significance only in its inconsequence. I have yet to receive my copy of the dismissal order but strangely about a day before Marcelo resigned, Romulo obviously got a copy thereof, issued a press statement thereon and went around town jubilating. Surely, Romulo had direct access to Marcelo.

"I am definitely filing a motion for reconsideration and if this is not sustained by the new Ombudsman, this matter will surely be elevated to the Supreme Court which, I am sure, will not turn a blind eye on the 2-inch documents which serve as evidence in my complaint.

"It is too early and therefore premature for Romulo and his paid hacks to gloat and celebrate."

(Cocktales' comment: Now we understand why the Senate had voted to indefinitely ban Chavez from its grounds and any of its sessions and hearings.)

Heard through the grapevine

DESPITE the Department of Justice ordering the withdrawal of the complaint, Alaminos RTC Judge Jules Mejia insists on continuing the estafa case filed against the Germany-based Audi board of directors. A hearing is scheduled on Wednesday, even with the complainants, ex-Audi distributor Peter and Paul Rodriguez, already declining the payment of filing fees of nearly P16 million.

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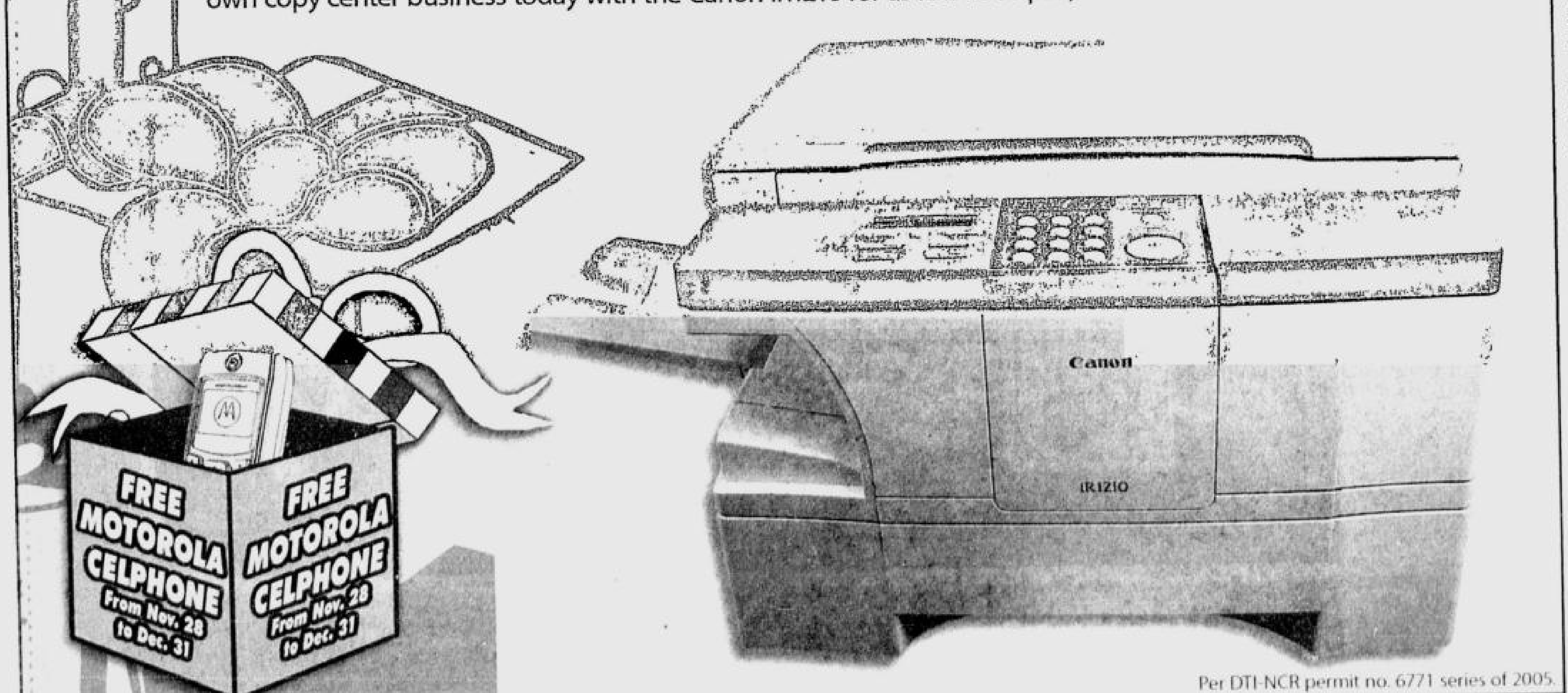
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Editor **Leo Magno**

Solon urges use of ATMs in RP polls

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

REP. PROSPERO PICHAY JR. HAS GONE farther to proposing amendments to the existing laws on automating the country's elections in House Bill 1760. He has added the use of automated teller machine (ATM) technology "in the conduct of national and local electoral exercises."

Pichay said Republic Act 8436, a law that requires the Commission on Elections to use counting machines to facilitate the electoral exercise, is outmoded.

"The provisions on the use of a particular machine under RA No. 8436 do not genuinely serve the purpose the law was supposed to accomplish—to preserve and promote the true voice of the people. For one, the significant portion of the problem [of] cheating in elections does not lie [in] the counting of votes, but in the registration of voters and the transmission of ballots. One may observe that during the counting of votes, the political protagonists are duly represented through their watchers," Pichay wrote in the bill.

He stressed that the ATM system is now "widely applied in a myriad of modern transactions, with awe-inspiring results."

"Through the use of the same in our electoral exercises, there is a better guarantee that the true will of the people is promoted," he added.

Pichay's proposal involves the use of a voter's card containing a unique personal identification number. Voters will be required to vote using an automated teller machine equipped with a biometric identification system.

The lawmaker said voters will need to insert their card, register and vote electronically. A printed copy of the "transaction" will be generated immediately by the machine, which the voter would then sign.

After signing the same, the voter should drop the printed and signed copy of his vote in a designated ballot box.

From the polling place, the ATM is electronically linked to a main computer server in designated counting centers, thereby electronically transmitting the vote to the latter.

In case of systems failure, the printed and signed copy of the vote shall constitute indubitable proof of the vote cast.

The provision of Republic Act 8436 mandating the Commission on Elections to computerize elections by May 1998 was pushed back to 2004, and subsequently postponed after the Supreme Court voided the contract to supply the Comelec with electronic counting machines.

At least three separate bills were filed proposing amendments to the RA 8436. Their principal authors are Representatives Jesli Lapus (House Bill 1598), Loretta Ann Rosales (HB 3301) and Benjamin Agarao Jr..(HB 3736).

Rep. Simeon Kintanar is chair of the House committee on ICT.

What happened to unused counting machines?

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

A COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS OFFICIAL admitted that there's a slim chance the poll body would recover the P1.3 billion spent for the purchase of unused counting machines originally eyed for last year's elections.

Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra said the Comelec has even been slapped with a "collection case" by Mega Pacific eConsortium, the company that won the contract to supply the counting machines.

The case is now pending at a local regional trial court, Borra said. Mega Pacific has filed a collection case against the poll body, asking it to pay them a P200-million balance for the purchase of more than 1,000 counting machines.

The Supreme Court voided Comelec's contract with Mega Pacific eConsortium last year after finding that the poll body had violated bidding rules.

"We have complied with the Supreme Court decision, but we're also facing a suit," said Borra at a Congressional hearing on proposed amendments to election laws.

The Comelec official said the poll body has already asked Mega Pacific to return the P1.3 billion it paid for the automation of vote counting. The collection case has deterred the Comelec from getting back its money.

Borra said that the Comelec has contemplated using the counting machines for the ARMM elections. However the Supreme Court decision has prevented them from touching the machines.

"What will be the legal basis of Comelec to use the machines?" he added.

The Office of the Solicitor General has also filed a case against Mega Pacific, hoping to recover the government money spent to purchase more than 1,000 counting machines, Borra said.

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THE EMPOWERED women with their winning looks (sorry for the plug), from left: Christine, Clarissa, Margie, Tina, Corrie, Mitch, Amy, Doris and Elizabeth.

MEN OF BUSINESS: Eric, Ron, Raul and Daxim L. Lucas.

It's not all biz, the buzz is it's home

From page B1

day's business and economic stories in a computerized, Internet-enabled niche of the INQUIRER building in Makati City.

It was in October 1986 when I joined the INQUIRER. With Nilo Mulles as business editor, I covered the corporate beat. Reporters Jessica Densing, Oscar Quiambao and Emeterio Perez handled the rest of the economic coverage.

The editor in chief of the INQUIRER then was the late Luis D. Beltran, my Journalism professor at the University of the Philippines. He told me to look him up after graduation and, after three short-lived jobs, I did just that.

The Business Section had a high turnover of reporters then, and I guess Beltran deliberately put me there to test me. I guess I passed because, after 19 years, I am still here.

And I have been witness to the tremendous changes the Business Section has gone through.

When the late President Marcos was ousted and Corazon C. Aquino took over, the economy and businesses began to perk up. The stock market sizzled, breaking records and turning over volumes unheard of in the history of the local bourse.

Early years

Failed coup attempts were the main story fare at that time. And business reporters were often on the phone for reactions from executives and key government economic officials.

Being a business reporter at that time was no walk in the park—there was no Internet, and the mobile phone and wireless connectivity were still a long way from our shores.

Business reporters usually left their beats by 3 p.m. to go to their respective offices. Reporters would write stories using manual typewriters. Editors used red pens to edit the stories before sending these off to the typesetters.

During stockholders' meetings, or late conferences or interviews, reporters would "phone in" their stories and the business editor would type them.

Traffic was obviously much lighter then. I was able to cover the Bureau of Internal Revenue in the mornings, the SEC by lunch time, and still met the 5 p.m. deadline at the office.

At the start, the Business Section was relegated to a page or two of the main section of the INQUIRER.

The first business editor of the INQUIRER was Erness Sanchez who would close the section two days in advance. That was early 1986. Nilo Mulles stayed less than a year.

Taking Mulles' place was Leo Deocadiz, who used to work for the defunct Business Day. I recall that Deocadiz was taken in preparation for changes in the Business Section—principally spinning it off as a separate section.

Male-dominated then

By the time the INQUIRER moved to the BF Condominium Building in Intramuros in 1987, it was already a separate section.

Slowly the Business Section evolved. Special reports were done. Efforts were made to produce more comprehensive articles. But at that time, there were only three reporters and the beats being covered were trade and industry, banking and finance, and SEC.

Jessica Densing, who covered trade, left to settle down. I took over her beat. Rita Villadiego, one of the provincial correspondents, was taken in to cover SEC.

Before long, Deocadiz too bid adieu. Ruby Paurom, then Ruby Villavicencio, became business editor in transition. She eventually moved to the Sunday Inquirer. Samuel Señoren, who used to be with another daily, eventually became the INQUIRER's new business editor.

Sometime in 1990, the INQUIRER again moved to another office, this time, near UN Avenue in Ermita, Manila.

Duing the time of Deocadiz and Señoren, the Business Section corner was just that—a corner with one desk for the editor. Reporters typed their stories in the reporters' pool.

Today, the INQUIRER Business Section is still a corner—but much bigger. It has six tables for the five editors and an editorial assistant.

The staff of the Business Section has also changed.

Sammy was tapped to join the corporate side of the INQUIRER. Victor Agustin, who used to cover the Malacañang beat, became acting business editor briefly while the search for a permanent replacement went on.

Vic did not stay long at the desk, realizing he was really more suited to his current role as columnist.

Raul Marcelo, the current business editor of the INQUIRER, was taken in. He used to be the business editor of the defunct The Manila Chronicle.

Soon after, Arleen Chipongian and Corrie Narisma, also from The Chronicle, were also taken in.

Growing up in the '90s

The Business Section grew in the '90s. There were Raul, Corrie, Arleen, Rita and another reporter from the Chronicle—Rene delos Reyes.

Arleen eventually became assistant business editor. Corrie covered trade, Rene took on SEC, and I covered banking. Rita did corporate news and other beats.

Changes were continually made in the section. Regular meetings were held among the staff to discuss how to further improve the section. The efforts were not for naught—the INQUIRER Business Section has been a regular recipient of business journalism awards from the 1990s to the present.

On top of the weekly special reports, the section runs Success Stories to inspire others. It also has Management Styles, which highlights a CEO's manner of running his business and people.

In Marketing Strategy, companies are analyzed, from the sale of their products to the schemes they undertake.

Arleen Chipongian eventually got married and settled in Hong Kong. Corrie became the assistant business editor.

Lifestyling

In 1997, the features section was born. It started with Business Monday—a name given by INQUIRER editor in chief Letty J. Magsanoc who wanted to give impersonal business a face.

After four months, due to the success of the Monday features, management decided to create another features section—Business Friday. Before the end of the year, Business Sunday was born.

The "lifestyling" of the Business Section was started by the INQUIRER.

It was imitated by the other newspapers—a silent tribute to the INQUIRER's success.

The members of the Business Section now are: Raul O. Marcelo, business editor; Corrie Salientes-Narisma, assistant business editor; myself, as head of features; desk persons Tina Arceo-Dumlao and Eric Olona.

The reporters are Clarissa S. Batino, who covers telecommunications, Doris Dumlao, banking; Christine Gaylican, agriculture; Ron Domingo, trade and industry; Abigail Ho, energy; Mitch Remo, finance; Beth Sanchez, the stock market; and Dax Lucas, who does special reports. Amy Remo is the editorial assistant.

Over the years, journalists have come and gone in the Business Section. Those who left had personal reasons for doing so. But usually those who join the INQUIRER Business Section stay. I should know.

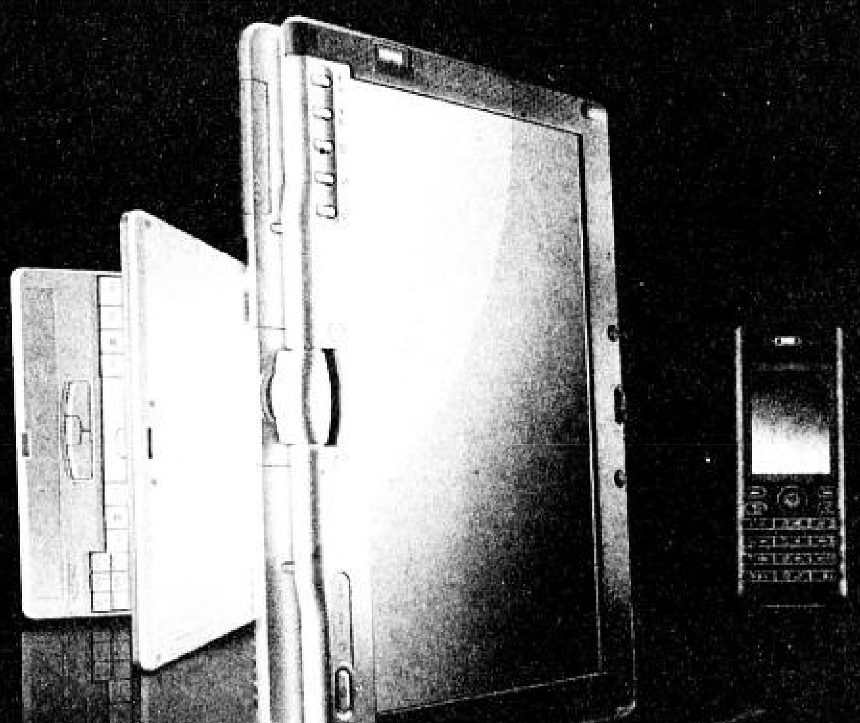
Raul and Corrie have been around for 14 years; Tina, Clarissa and Christine, eight years; Doris, seven years; Abi and Amy, four years.

Perhaps it is because the INQUIRER Business Section is a family. And the company is among the best in the industry. Over the past 19 years, its staff have been among the most respected and awarded in the industry.

Proactive

The section is very proactive in continuously improving its members. It has annual planning sessions; roundtable discussions with CEOs and top decision-makers in the business community. Its staff regularly undergo training programs and seminars to hone them in their craft.

Over the years, even through the boycotts and hard times, the INQUIRER's Business Section has remained steadfast in its goal of raising the standards of economic reportage. It has been this way for 20 years, and will most likely go on for the next 20 years.



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NutriAsia to buy Lorenzo stake in Del Monte for $206M

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

NUTRIASIA PACIFIC LTD., A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN condiments tycoon Joselito Campos Jr. and San Miguel Corp., has decided to buy the stake held by the L orenzo family in Del Monte Pacific Ltd. for $206.5 million or P11 billion.

In a letter to the board of directors of Del Monte Pacific, company managing director Martin Lorenzo confirmed that MCI Inc., his family's holding company in Del Monte, had agreed to sell its 538.2 million shares in Del Monte Pacific, or 49.8 percent of the company, to NutriAsia.

Once the sale is completed, the Lorenzos will no longer be shareholders of Del Monte.

SMC, Campos and MCI of the Lorenzos joined forces to foil a takeover bid of the First Pacific Group of Del Monte Pacific.

Exercising its pre-emptive right, MCI decided to match First Pacific's offer to buy up to 29 percent in Del Monte.

This meant that MCI bought an additional 28.7 percent from Cirio Finanziaria-Del Monte Holdings Ltd. out of their combined 40 percent in the pineapple brand.

MCI purchased Cirio-Del Monte's 29 percent stake at 38.18 cents a share or for a total of $118.6 million.

With Cirio's 28.7 percent and MCI's existing 21 percent in Del Monte , MCI effectively beefed up its stake to 49.8 percent, which it would sell to NutriAsia Pacific.

Cirio-Del Monte's remaining 11 percent out of the 40 percent will be sold during the general cash offer to be made by NutriAsia.

Pricewaterhouse Coopers Corporate Finance Pte. Ltd., the financial adviser of NutriAsia Pacific, said in a disclosure in Singapore that NutriAsia Pacific had offered to acquire Del Monte shares at 38.62 cents a share, rivaling the bid launched by Hong Kong conglomerate First Pacific at 38.18 cents per share.

The acquisition into Del Monte is seen to bring powerful brands and significant scale in the fast growing regional branded food and beverage sector for San Miguel and Campos' businesses.

First Pacific Co. earlier offered to pay Cirio and Del Monte Holdings $163.6 million in cash for combined 39.72 percent stake, or 38.18 cents a share.

NutriAsia Pacific is controlled by San Miguel, Golden Chamber Investment Ltd. which is the investment holding company of the Campos family, Southeast Asia Food Inc. (Safi) and the T.Y.Ang family.

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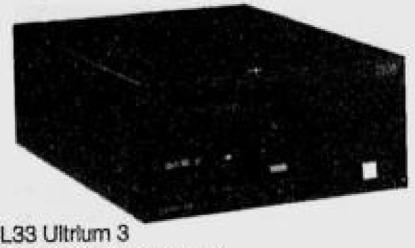

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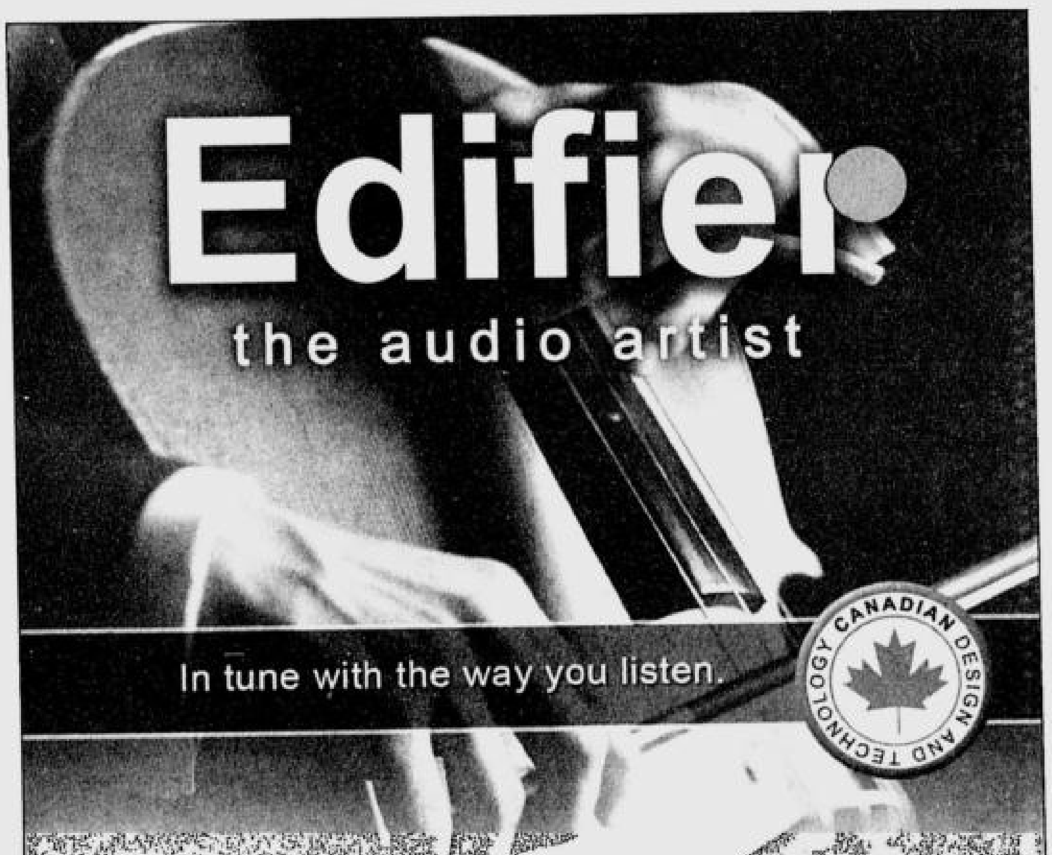
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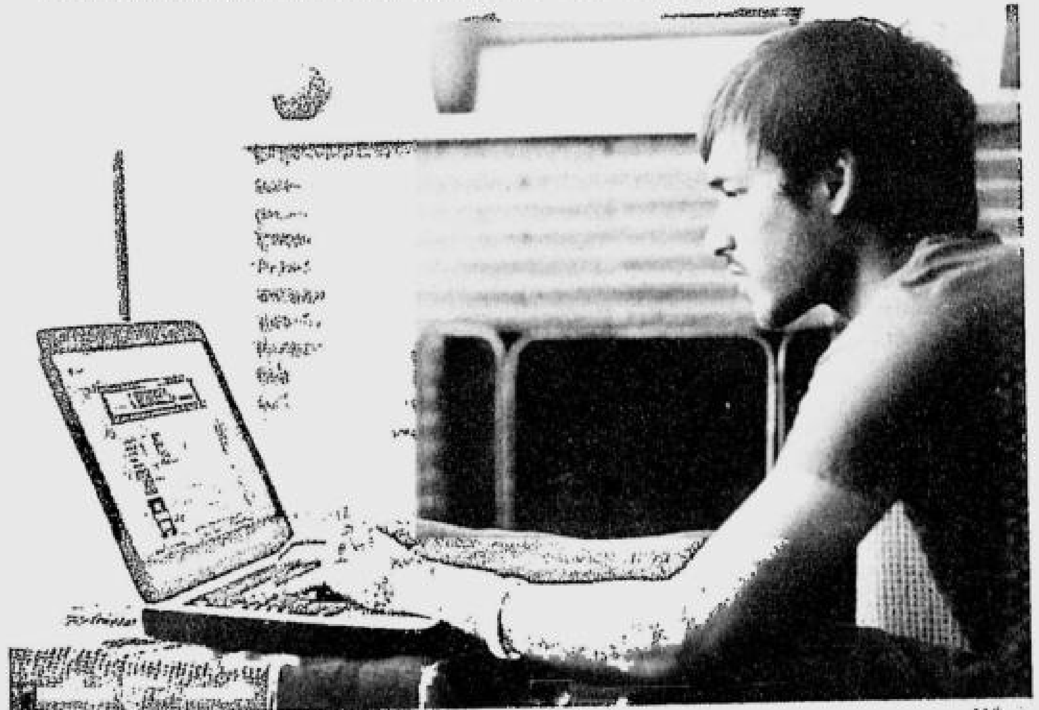

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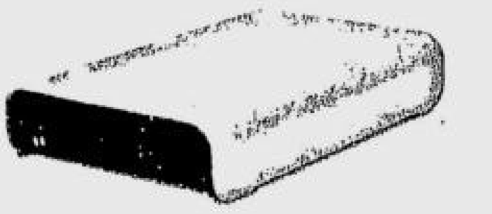

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Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-045

SUBJECT : **LIFTING OF THE CANCELLATION OF CPC DUE TO FAILURE TO CALIBRATE**

Records of the Board reveal that influx of Motion to Allow Late Calibration, Motion for Reconsideration to Lift Order of Cancellation for Failure to Calibrate, and Motions of the same nature are continuously being filed before the Receiving Section of this Board. In view thereof, and due to the persistent appeal by Taxi Operators Association that they are willing to pay the penalty for late calibration, the Cancellation of Certificate of Public Convenience for failure to undertake the calibration and sealing/resealing of taxi meters within the prescribed period set by the Board shall be LIFTED and SET ASIDE, and all pending Motions as above-stated shall be considered MOOT and ACADEMIC with the issuance of this Memorandum Circular. Provided that, they shall still pay the penalty imposed under Board Resolution No. 4, Series of 2004, dated November 12, 2004, and other related fees and charges.

The Management Information Division is hereby directed to update the records of Taxi Operators whose Certificates of Public Convenience (CPC) was cancelled and revoked by virtue of Memorandum Circular 2004-042 dated December 13, 2004, upon submission of proof of payment of penalty, and must indicate therein that the CPC cancelled and revoked was lifted and set aside, or in case there is a pending Motion, the same shall be deemed moot and academic by this Memorandum Circular.

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, Philippines. **DEC. 02, 2005**

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-046

SUBJECT : **LIFTING THE MORATORIUM RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF PETITIONS/APPLICATIONS FOR NEW AIR-CONDITIONED TAXI SERVICES (BRAND NEW SEDAN ONLY) WITHIN REGION III**

The LTFRB Regional Director for Region III recommended the lifting of moratorium on the acceptance of petitions/applications for new Air-conditioned Taxi Services (Brand-new Sedan only) within Region III on a developmental operations basis. The recommendation is anchored, among others, on the following premises:

a) Region III (Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales, Bulacan, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, and Aurora) is one of the biggest regions in the country in terms of area and population. Its key urban centers are situated in the following: City of San Fernando, Pampanga; Angeles City, Pampanga; and Olongapo City, Zambales.

b) In the said cities and nearby localities, there has been a significant increase of population and economic activities including the opening/expansion of major malls and presence of free-port zones. However, it was observed that there is no single taxi in the operation . in the said areas despite the demand and need for the service.

c) Verification of LTFRB records reveals that there is only one existing and valid taxi franchise with the use of one sedan unit authorized within the region.

d) With the growth and development of Region III, the existing and available modes of transport (Mini-Bus, PUJ, and Tricycle) are not adequate to serve an upgraded level and quality of service. As such, this is the opportune time to introduce a Taxi Service as an alternative mode of transport on a developmental operations basis to adapt with the demand and need of the current passengers and riding public.

In view of the foregoing and consistent with the government's Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program vis-à-vis the objective to provide the riding public in Region III, with options relative to an improved level/quality of service, safety features, and convenience, **this Board hereby declares the Opening and Acceptance of New Applications for the Issuance of CPC to Operate a Taxi Service (brand-new sedan only) within Region III as a Developmental Project.** As such, LTFRB Regional Office III is allowed to accept New Applications to operate a Taxi Service limited to the following allocation of number of units per base of operation:

1.) San Fernando City, Pampanga to any Point in Region III – Fifteen (15) units

2.) Angeles City, Pampanga to Any Point in Region III – Fifteen (15) units

3.) Olongapo City, Zambales to Any Point in Region III – Fifteen (15) units.

Every Application must be for a minimum use of two (2) but not exceeding five (5) brand-new, white, four-door sedan units that are ready for operation. For this purpose, a brand-new unit means a unit manufactured in the current or preceding year when the Application is filed. Units shall also be equipped with receipt issuing meters as prescribed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Accordingly, within ten (10) days from effectivity hereof, the Implementing Guidelines shall be issued, through a Regional Memorandum Circular, by the LTFRB Regional Office III, copy furnished the Board. The said Implementing Guidelines must be in conformity with the existing laws, rules, regulations and policies of the Board.

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect immediately following the filing of three (3) copies hereof with the UP Law Center, pursuant to Presidential Memorandum Circular No. 11, dated 09 October 1992.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, Philippines. **DEC. 02, 2005**

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

MARIA ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-047

SUBJECT : **PROHIBITION OF SIMULTANEOUS FILING OF SALE AND TRANSFER AND DROPPING AND SUBSTITUTION**

In order to avoid commercialization of franchises and circumvention of Memorandum Circulars 2003-004, Re: CLARIFICATION ON MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 97-005 WITH RESPECT TO PETITIONS FOR SALE AND TRANSFER, the Board hereby prohibits the simultaneous filing of Sale and Transfer and Dropping and Substitution, except in the following situations:

1. Compliance with MC 2004-030, Re: Substitution of Taxi and Mega Taxi Units; and
2. In case the authorized unit/s which was sold was/were carnapped or suffered a major mechanical breakdown rendering the unit unserviceable.

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, Philippines. **DEC. 02, 2005**

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-048

SUBJECT : **CREATION OF FRANCHISE COMPLIANCE TASK FORCE**

In order to protect the interest of the riding public and the legitimate grantees of Certificates of Public Convenience, this Board hereby creates an "Anti-Colorum and Fare Monitoring Task Force." The creation of the same will ensure that only authorized units with valid and existing franchises will operate as for hire vehicles, and will minimize "colorum" operations. Likewise, it will be task for the monitoring of compliance with regard to standard fare rates. The task force shall be composed of the following:

1. LTFRB Personnel duly designated which will act as the head of the task force;
2. Representative from Public Utility Buses Association;
3. Representative from Public Utility Jitneys Association;
4. Representative from Taxi Air-Conditioned Service Association;
5. Representative from School Transport Service Association;
6. Representative from Tourist Transport Service Association;
7. Representative from Truck for Hire Service Association;
8. Accredited DOTC NGOs

Apprehension for "colorum" operations and non-compliance with the standard fare rates shall be submitted to the head of the task force, which will personally report to the Office of the Chairperson for the latter's appropriate action. Member/s of the task force from respective denomination/ association is prohibited to apprehend vehicles and report violations pertaining to the denomination they are representing, in order to avoid controversies between and among competitors in the transportation business.

All interested associations are required to submit list of their representatives to the Office of the Chairperson.

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, Philippines. **DEC. 02, 2005**

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-049

SUBJECT : **REITERATION OF MC 2003-004**

On February 14, 2003, this Board issued Memorandum Circular 2003-005, Re: IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON USEC. VALDEZ'S MEMO DATED 09 JANUARY 2003 (RE: METRO MANILA BUS ROUTE RATIONALIZATION PROGRAM), important portion of which reads as follows:

"1. Acceptance of Petition/ Application for Sale and Transfer and Dropping and Substitution under the Bus Route Rationalization Program is temporarily being held in abeyance until such program is finished. x x x xx"

Subsequently, Memorandum Circular 2003-024, Re: CONTINUING PROHIBITION FOR THE DROPPING AND SUBSTITUTION OF UNITS OF PUB BUSES UNDER THE ROUTE RATIONALIZATION PROGRAM UNLESS THE SUBSTITUTE UNIT ARE BRAND NEW DATED SEPTEMBER 4, 2003, was issued.

Reconciling the aforesaid Memorandum Circulars, the Board only lifted the suspension under the Bus Rationalization Program of Petition for Dropping and Substitution, and not Petitions for Sale and transfer until such program is finished.

In view of the foregoing statements and considering that the Bus Rationalization Program is now in its Second Phase, this Board hereby reiterates the tenor of MC 2003-005, putting a moratorium on Application/s for Sale and Transfer of Certificates of Public Convenience in Metro Manila until lifted by the Board.

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, Philippines. **DEC. 02, 2005**

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-050

SUBJECT : **PROHIBITION OF INTERCHANGE OF UNITS**

In order to avoid confusion as to the authorized units of a particular Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC), grantees of Certificates of Public Convenience with two (2) or more CPCs are prohibited to file a Petition of Interchange of Units.

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, Philippines. **DEC. 02, 2005**

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-051

SUBJECT : **AMENDMENTS TO MC 2005-041, RE: PENALTY FOR LATE CONFIRMATION**

It has been observed by the Board after conducting an internal audit that a substantial number of grantees of Certificates of Public Convenience are filed for confirmation beyond the period as prescribed for registration. In view thereof, the penalty of P250.00 **per month** shall be imposed for those who belatedly file their confirmation.

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and shall be **effective on January 1, 2006.**

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, Philippines. **DEC. 02, 2005**

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-052

SUBJECT : **APPLICABILITY OF FLEXIBILITY RULE**

The Board has observed that the Flexibility Rule has been rampantly abused by some Public Utility Bus Service operators, who are enterprising in the irregular deployment of their units to "preferred-financially lucrative" routes to the detriment of the commuting public in their authorized route. It is also observed that the route shift is being done on a permanent basis instead of being temporary in the guise of meeting irregular demand characteristics. It is added that Public Utility Jitney operators complain before the Board that their income has been affected due to Flexibility Rule.

In view thereof, and pursuant to the regulatory powers of the Board and pursuant to Department Order No. 2005-010, Flexibility Rule shall only be allowed for bus units that are authorized for provincial operation. Provincial bus operators are, thus, allowed to flex their authorized and registered buses from their authorized provincial routes to their other authorized provincial routes to meet commuter demands without abandoning the routes from where their buses are diverted and only to the extent of fifty percent (50%) of the total number of authorized units of the franchise from where their buses are diverted. Flexibility Rule does not apply to bus units that are authorized under the Metro Manila Bus Rationalization Program.

Further, Flexibility Rule only applies during the periods hereunder provided:

1. **Sunday before Easter Sunday up to Sunday after Easter Sunday (Holy Week Season);**
2. **From March 15 to March 30 and June 01 to June 15 (Closing and Opening of Classes);**
3. **From October 25 to November 05 (All Soul's Day Season); and**
4. **From December 15 to January 15 (Christmas and New Year Season).**

Any operator found violating the provisions of this Circular shall be subject to the following penalties after due notice and hearing:

A. **First Offense – Five Thousand Pesos (PhP 5,000.00).**

B. **Second Offense – Ten Thousand Pesos (PhP 10,000.00) and Thirty day (30) Suspension of all bus units of the operator. To ensure the implementation of the suspension, the operator shall be required within a certain period to be fixed by the Board to surrender all the plates issued by the Land Transportation Office before the Board for storage; otherwise, all the Certificates of Public Convenience (CPC) granted to the operator shall be cancelled and revoked.**

C. **Third Offense – Cancellation of all CPC granted to the operator.**

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect on 15 January 2006.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, Philippines. **DEC. 02, 2005**

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-053

SUBJECT : **MODIFICATION ON MC 2005-026**

This Board hereby modifies MC 2005-026, Re: DEFERMENT AND AMENDMENT TO MC 2005-013, specifically second (2^{nd}) paragraph thereof, which shall now reads as follows:

"x x x

By June 30, 2006, MC No. 2005-013 shall be reinstated."

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, Philippines. **DEC. 02, 2005**

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
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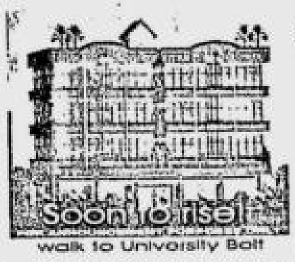

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28 Balete Drive QC 724-0429

Nr Visayas Av Gloria IV Subd
5BR 5T&B 4554123/4566854

RIZAL

140m² B36 L48 Robinsons
Antipolo 6391573 • 5272338

140m² Robinsons Antipolo 0927-4403460

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

ANTIPOLO 2M 0915-9098999

LAGUNA

Brandnew H&L 1M-25M (10am-5pm)
842-1914/842-9570/0915-8260255

Laguna Bel-Air Sta Rosa
Low D/P Edna 0917-8312369
Mariel 0917-6215864

APARTMENT

MAKATI

Nr. Pasng Tamo/JP Rizal LA 33m²
FA 60m² 2BR Up&Dwn Pls contct
0917-8502559 / 0917-5314881

LOT

PARANAQUE

1648m² COMM'L LOT
San Martin de Porres Near
HONDA Neg. Atty. Aperocho
0917-2599040 • 0919-6267435

QUEZON CITY

GloriaIV Subd nr Visayas Ave
444m² 455-4123/456-6854

GRAND VILLAS Top Row
w/view back ATENEO LOTS
hse & lots avble 426-5650
929-1832 • 0919-8212235

★KATIPUNAN Ext Resl lot
nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m²
P8,500/m² 0918-9235216★

CAVITE

MANILA SOUTHWOODS
• LOTS FOR SALE•
518m² @ P6,500/m²
606m² @ P5,500/m²
Call • 0917-8127679
• 0927-6093888 •

MEMORIAL LOT

Heritage Park II 634-1212

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

Res'l Farm Lot 3.2hac Naic
Cavite 4554123/4566854

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

MAKATI

Comml/Office Spaces for lease
(51m²-627m²)887-6003

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

VARIED AREAS

2ND ST NR RIZAL AVE 2 BR
2TB FA 72M² P12T/M MAYON
NR RETIRO JOLLIBEE 2 TB FA
120M² P22T/M Q. HIWAY NR
MINDANAO AVE 1TB 285M²
P75T/MO. 7312110/89

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

NR LASALLE 3BR 3TB 6992148

Ocean Tower, Rxs Blvd 3BR&TB, Pkg,
Facing Bay 55K; 09178587929

QUEZON CITY

QC P5T 09176210304/4283982

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

SAN JUAN

G'HILLS 1BR 5268048/49

HOUSE

PASAY

PASAY EDSA 1-2BR 2318973

APARTMENT

MAKATI

3BR 13T CP09189363199

MANILA

2BR 1B P8T 0921-2232867 P6T

ROOM & BOARD

El Grande Inn 8257524
BF Pque P200! Tel8275345

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Windsor Inn Maceda St nr
7-11 Dimasalang, Manila
7118679, 7836781(24hrs)

MANILA

1BR w/AC NR LaSalle 8992148

MAKATI

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

BUSINESS RENTAL

Dental Clinic For Sale/Lease
Rm224 Atrium Bldg Makati
•811-4071/823-6047•

LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSNES .DCTOR 524-3197 0919-3227420

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Ground Flr units pper Floor
units for lease along Edsa
GOOD TERMS & RATES
Ask Jhoan 724-5940

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

'02 VTI-S 37Tkm 1st Own Gud
As Brand New 0918-9343012

CRV'02 8265861 09189420180

MITSUBISHI

02 LANCER GLS 1.6L A/T
1ST OWNED P393T
0917-801-2260 or 931-2294

TOYOTA

'96 LITE ACE P220T Neg.
780-1517 • 0917-8166584

VOLVO

'01 S70 27Tkm 1st Own P650T
Neg 7445100 or 02 Cheri

MOTORCYCLE

150cc Loncin 1st owner
EZ Rider 35T 0927-4809746

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Affordable Rent a Car Hiace, Vios,
Corolla Low Rates 0920-9518097

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

MARIAN CARS•VANS•BRDAL
8 9 6 9 9 5 6

Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

CRV Innova Starex 9483535

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

RENT A VAN
0917-5444721 • 642-4405

REVO w/driver 9272821

ABC OPEN 24 HRS.
HI-ACE*STAREX*CRV
L300*URVAN*REVO
NEW CARS/SUV/4X4/BUSES
MLA:536-6822*303-9789
Q.C.:426-2278*426-4084

WANTED TO BUY

BILI KO O2 MO T-8990215

CAR LOAN

1% Auto Easy 5344441

1% Car Lending 915-3460
United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% w/out taking car 7262780

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/o taking car 7723810/12

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BAKERY EQUIPMENT

MIXER OVEN STEEL TABLE
RACKS PANS RUSH 7246041

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE

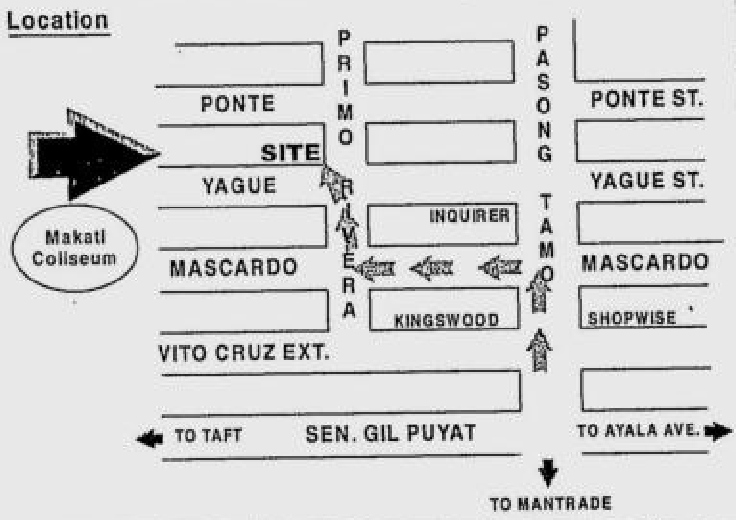
AVAILABLE SPACE FOR LEASE

Location: 2112 Primo Rivera St..
cor. Yague St., Makati City

Covered Area = 1,075 sq.m.
Mezzanine Office = 216 sq.m.
Open Area = 225 sq.m.
Total Area = 1,516 square meters

Space ideal for Outsourcing Activities
For Immediate Occupancy
Call Tel. Nos. 891-9441/42 or 848-7032/33
Ask for Alice Cruz or Jingle Reyes

Location



GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

Shih Tzu M 3mos w/Shots
Papers 13K 0922-8470800

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8884040 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

WANTED TO BUY

PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE
WE BUY USED
SWISS WATCHES
SECONDO 2/F GLORIETTA 1 / 8940282
SWISS WATCH LOANS
LOW 5% INTEREST
AGENCIA DE MAKATI 889-7956

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& OTHER SWISS WATCHES
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
HI-APPRAISAL/FAST CASH
REPAIR/POLISH ANY WATCH
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale SPLENDIDO
Share Tagaytay 1.8M
09198653109

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

CPA BKeper Exec Asst. Computer Expert
26YO b/w Cainta Resd. Send resume caesar_
cortes@yahoo.com 0917-8838088

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Homecare Nurse Single 5333495

LICENSED LADY DENTIST
preferably UE graduate
Call JAMES 09178233345

MALE

URGENTLY NEEDED
CIVIL ENGINEER
W/ Exp. and Pref. Lic.
Tel.: 427-2808 / 427-6297

MALE/FEMALE

DEPED-Marikina City
OSEC DECSB MTCHR2 - 30687
MTCHR1 - 31502 TCH1 - 47757
47627 47760 30165 TCH2 -
36015 47603 48034 47848
47727 - 1998

Pharmacist 6915513 09178512031

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

earnextranow.com code:
atb2004 8531008 09178901851

Garments, P20 Up 412-8673

MLM Visit www.lamagel.com/rich
Tess / Cesar 831-1112 0917-8838088

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

★ VIRTUAL STORE ★
Sell your Products & Services to
the World 24Hrs a day 7 days a
week with your own Website
8944950•8925494•8175511

RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

NEED SIDELINE! Set your Hrs!
P/F up tp 20K/mo. 376-2642 & 44

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

COVERBOY BAR
413-2746
0920-9064273

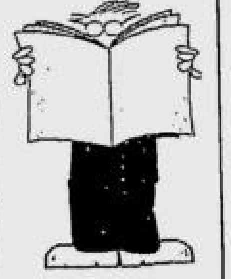
AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ-BRIONES PAWNSHOP
DECEMBER 9, 2005
Auction
All unredeemed article
from July 1-30, 2005
354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
109 Dela Rosa Makati 10AM
VZamora-Auctioneer

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that PAG-IBIG HOUSING BOND Cert. Nos. 009044-49 Denomination P5000.00 each issued by the Home Pag-ibig Fund under the name of DOMINADOR A. BAUTISTA were lost. pls Call /Text 0919-8491163. If no contest received new cert. will be issued (PDI-Nov. 28, Dec. 5, & 12, 2005)

WHERE YOU FIND THE BEST.



JOB Market
ONLINE

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

Diamond Hotel is in need of attractive males and females ages 22-35 years old, preferably single, who are proficient in English (knowing a bit of Japanese is a bonus). Interested parties may please email their resumé with picture at apply@diamondhotel.com or contact Lou Yabut at 582-3000 to submit resumé personally.

For Immediate Hiring in Lipa, Batangas

STORE MANAGER/SENIOR SUPERVISOR/CASHIERS

1. Experience in retail store operations and knowledgeable in POS, MS Word & MS Excel will be an advantage
2. He or she must be energetic, self motivated, honest and can work with minimum supervision as well as willing to work long hours.

SEND your resumé with: latest photo, contact numbers, address, & desired salary to:

The VICE PRESIDENT
Shelter Systems Development Corporation
Sampaguita Homes-LIPA,
Brgy. Sampaguita, Lipa City, Batangas 4217

SALE OF PNB SHARES TO SMALL LOCAL INVESTORS

Pursuant to Republic Acts No. 7181, 7661 and 7886 (Privatization Laws), the Joint Technical Committee, duly constituted by the Department of Finance and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation, hereby announces the sale to Small Local Investors (SLIs) of at least 20,670,435 Government-owned shares in Philippine National Bank (PNB) under the following terms, and the Terms and Conditions stated in the Application Form:

Available Purchase Lot : 100 to a maximum of 2,200 shares (in multiples of 100 shares)
Price per share : P43.77 (pursuant to RA 7886)
Offer Period : 13 December 2005 to 15 February 2006
Eligible Investors : OFWs, private/government employees, small farmers/fisherfolks, cooperatives, pension, retirement, provident and other similar funds

Deadline for submission of Application Form: 15 February 2006 12 noon

Application forms and information sheet are available at the Department of Finance, Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation and selected PNB branches. For further inquiries, please contact:

Mr. Eric Dural
Privatization Office
Department of Finance
Tel. No. (02) 524-1633
www.dof.gov.ph

Ms. Rossana V. Castello
Risk Assessment & Res. Dept. 4
Phil. Deposit Insurance Corp.
Tel. No. (02) 841-4265 to 73
www pdic gov ph

SPECIAL OFFER!!!

Calling ALL interested parties while supply lasts. We would like you to submit your offer for our Janitorial and Office Equipment and Supplies consisting of the following:

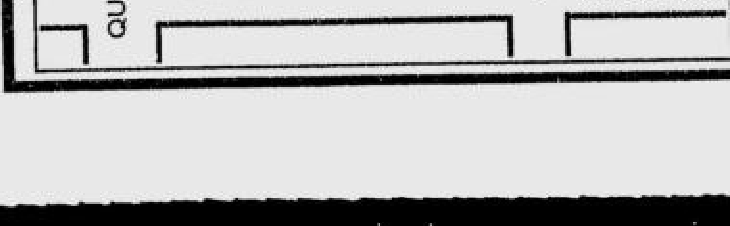
- 200+ Polishers
- Vacuum Cleaners
- Rubbermaid Products
- Cleaning Chemicals
- Custodial Supplies
- Office Tables
- Filing Cabinets

Deadline for submission of offers will be on **December 14, 2005** on or before **12:00 noon.**

For more information, you can visit our warehouse located at the **BTM Complex, 1281 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City,** or you can contact **Ms. Jane Fatima Valdez at (+632) 416-4213** or **Mr. Arji P. Obmerga at (+63917) 852-0406.**

We assume no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify parties for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the offer.

We reserve the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare the offer a failure, or not award the sale, and make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.



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OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

I am
the way,
the truth and
the life.
No one comes
to the Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

DEATH NOTICE

Col. Fabietico Villaruel (Ret.)

His body lies at the family residence at Kalibo, Aklan

Interment will be on December 6, 2005 at Balete Catholic Cemetery, Kalibo, Aklan after the 10 AM Mass.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

"I lie down and sleep in peace,
for You alone, O Lord, make me feel safe and secure"
Psalm 4: 9

VICTOR CADIZ PICZON

(Ateneo de Manila, '69)

youngest son of the late **Gov. Esteban Piczon** and **Rosario Cadiz**, has been peacefully reunited with our Creator on December 3, 2005 at age 57.

His bereaved wife **Connie Figueroa Padayao**, children **Angela Rosario**, **Sheena**, and **Christian**, brothers and sisters **Luisa**, **Candido**, **Jose**, **Fusca**, **Esteban (Jr.)**, **Efren**, **Fidencia**, and **Manuel**, nephews and nieces, in-laws, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the ancestral home in Tumalistis, Catbalogan, Samar. Interment is on December 10, 2005 at 2:00 PM.

We, the family of the late

ERNESTO A. VILLALUNA

lovingly remember him on his twenty fifth death anniversary. Holy Masses are being offered today, Monday, 05 December 2005:

Baguio Cathedral, *Baguio City*	*7:00 a.m.*
St. Joseph Church, *Pacdal, Baguio City*	*6:30 a.m.*
Sto. Niño Church, *Philex, Tuba, Benguet*	*5:00 p.m.*
Holy Cross Parish (04 December), *Lepanto, Benguet*	*4:30 p.m.*
Saint Francis of Assisi Church, *Mandaluyong City*	*6:00 p.m.*
Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish Church, *Quezon City*	*6:00 p.m.*
Christ the King Church, *Green Meadows, Quezon City*	*7:00 a.m.* *6:00 p.m.*
St. Paul the Apostle Parish, *Timog Avenue, Quezon City*	*6:00 a.m.*
Metropolitan Cathedral, *San Fernando City, Pampanga*	*7:15 a.m.*
Our Lady of Sorrows Church, *San Fernando City, Pampanga*	*6:00 a.m.*
San Agustin Parish Church, *San Fernando City, Pampanga*	*6:30 p.m.*
St. Benedict Church, *Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A.*	*8:15 a.m.*

CLASSIFIEDS

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date : November 24, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

Construction and Erection of 69kV Santiago-Alicia Transmission Line Project (Sp05.SATL.Lt-0055)

The works to be performed for the above project by the successful bidder consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor, materials and equipment (except materials and equipment specified to be furnished by TransCo), clearing of right-of-way, construction of steel tower foundations, erection of steel towers, installation of line hardware, stringing of 336.4 MCM ACSR "LINNET" conductors and 7 no. 6 AWG Aluminum-Clad OHGW including re-location of two (2) wood poles and its transfer of gantry connection. The Project which is approximately 19.8 kilometers is located in the Province of Isabela, Northern Part of Luzon.

1. The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), through the Annual Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the governing board, intends to apply the sum of Sixty Two Million Five Hundred Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Nine (Php 62,502,959.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction and Erection of 69kV Santiago-Alicia Transmission Line Project (Sp05.SATL.Lt-0055). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the project described above. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before the date and time at the address given below and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of non-refundable fee, also as stated below. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents stated below. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

   PCAB License and Registration Particular required should be as follows:

   License Particular : at least Category "A" Contractors with
   Registration Particulars : at least "Medium B", Building and Industrial Plant and "Medium B", Specialty: Electrical Works
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from TransCo and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee stated below. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting from the schedule specified below.
6. TransCo will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on the schedule stated below
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before the schedule of submission and opening specified below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any form and in amount stated in the Bidding Documents or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. The Contractor shall complete the works within One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days counted from the effective date stated in the Notice to Proceed.
9. TransCo reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ACTIVITY	DATE and TIME	VENUE
Issuance of Eligibility Documents	Starting November 25, 2005 8:00 am to 5:00 pm	BCMD office address below
Submission & opening of Eligibility Documents	December 9, 2005, 9.00 am	De La Paz Function Room, Training Center Bldg., Transco, Diliman, Q.C.
Issuance of Bidding Documents	Starting December 22, 2005, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm	BCMD office address below
Pre-Bid Conference	January 10, 2006, 1:30 pm	BCMD office address below
Submission of Bids & Opening	January 18, 2006, 9:00 am	BCMD office address below

Cost of Eligibility Documents per copy	P	800.00
Cost of Bidding Documents per copy	P	7,000.00

The address of the BAC Secretariat is:
MR. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building
National Transmission Corporation
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City 1104
Telephone Nos.: 981-2308; 981-2212; 981-2213
Facsimile No.: 921-2308
Email Address : jmilagan@transco.ph
Website Address : www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
VP-Luzon Operation & Maintenance
& Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – Nov. 26 & Dec. 5, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Surigao del Sur
Municipality of BAROBO

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CONSTRUCTION OF BAROBO PUBLIC MARKET

"The Works include the General Requirements; Site Works; Concrete Works, Masonry Works; Wood and Plastic Works; Thermal moisture Protection Works; Doors and Windows; Finishing Works; Mechanical Works; and Electrical Works"

Loan No. 1843-PHI

1. The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank toward the cost of the Mindanao Basic Urban Services Sector Project. (MBUSSP), and it intends to apply part or the whole of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the contract for the *Construction of Barobo Public Market/012-05PM.*
2. The **Municipality of Barobo, Surigao del Sur** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction of the New Barobo Public Market, which has a total floor area of 1,713 sq. m. The Works shall include the General Requirements; Site Works; Concrete Works; Masonry Works; Metal Works; Wood and Plastic Works; Thermal and Moisture Protection Works; Doors and Windows; Finishing Works; Mechanical Works; and Electrical Works. Completion of the Works is required within *305 calendar days.*
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent it is consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in "*Guidelines for Procurement Under Asian Development Bank Loans.*"
4. The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the ***Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Municipality of Barobo, Surigao del Sur*** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 am to 5:00 pm*** on **November 28, 2005 to January 05, 2006.**
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of ***Six Thousand Pesos (Php 6,000.00).*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before *January 05, 2006, 5:00 PM.*
7. The ***BAC, Municipality of Barobo*** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders in *December 20, 2005* at the ***Municipal Budget Office, Barobo, Surigao del Sur.***
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their bids at the address below on or before *January 6, 2006 @ 2:00 pm.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of *Bank Guarantee* and in an amount of *Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 450,000.00)* or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on *January 6, 2006 @ 2:00 pm at the Municipal Budget Office Barobo Municipal hall, Barobo, Surigao del Sur.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below:

Municipal Budget Office
Attn: Ms. Mina Ronquillo
Municipality of Barobo
Province of Surigao del Sur

9. To be considered eligible and qualified a Bidder must:
   a. have a successful experience as prime contractor in the construction of at least one (1) work of a nature and complexity equivalent to the Works in the last five (5) years, such being verifiable from completion certificates. To comply with this requirement the single contract cited should be at least ***Fourteen Million Pesos (Php 14.00M);***
   b. have a minimum average annual construction turnover over the last three (3) years equal to ***Seventeen Million Pesos (Php 17.00M).***
   c. submit audited balance sheets or, if not required by the law of the applicants country, other financial statements acceptable to the Procuring Entity, for the last five (5) years to demonstrate the current soundness of the applicants financial position and its prospective long-term profitability.
10. Completion of the Works is required within ***305 Calendar Days.***
11. The ***Municipality of Barobo, Surigao del Sur*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Attention: ***Ms. Mina U. Ronquillo***
Municipal Budget Officce
Municipal Hall, Barobo, Surigao del Sur

(Sgd.) MINA U. RONQUILLO
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Nov. 28 & Dec. 5, 2005)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG PANANALAPI
KAWANIHAN NG RENTAS INTERNAS

November 25, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PUBLIC BIDDING NO. 05-018, 05-019, 05-020, 05-021

1. **The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), through the General Appropriations Act for CY 2006 and/or CY 2005 continuing appropriations**, intends to apply the sum of the following being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the ff:

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	NAME OF CONTRACT	ABC	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
05-018	Comprehensive Maintenance Services for the Emergency Generator Sets (EGS) and Accessories	P 848,126.52	P 1,000.00
05-019	Comprehensive Maintenance Services of Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)	935,246.52	1,000.00
05-020	Lease of Servers for Various eServices Projects	70,560,000.00	70,560.00
05-021	Lease of Storage and Automated Tape Library for Various eServices Projects	16,440,840.00	16,449.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. **The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the ff:**

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERY/ CONTRACT DURATION
05-018	*Comprehensive Maintenance Services of EGS at Computer Center (RCC), RDC-Manila and RDC-Quezon City*	January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006
05-019	*Comprehensive Maintenance Services of UPS at the Revenue Computer Center (RCC), Command Center-NOB, RDC-Manila and RDC-Quezon City and Metro Manila District Offices*	January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006
05-020	*The eServices servers shall continue operating to sustain the various projects including Tax Compliance and Verification Drive, Letter of Authority Monitoring, eCorrespondence, eSales, Accreditation and Registration, Automated Excise Data Management, and also the Datawarehouse and Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) systems, providing the Bureau with additional means for effective tax collection*	January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006
05-021	*The Storage serves as the repository of eServices servers data while the ATL performs the backup of these data, conforming with the BIR backup strategy.*	January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB). The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief, Procurement Division at the address given below from 8.00 AM-5:00 PM starting **November 29, 2005.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon **cash payment** to the BIR Cashier of a non-refundable fee in the amount stated above.
6. **The Bureau of Internal Revenue will hold a Pre-bid Conference open to all interested parties** ***at the 3rd Floor, Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City*** on:

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	PRE-BID CONFERENCE	TIME
05-018	December 12, 2005	9:00 AM
05-019	December 12, 2005	9:00 AM
05-020	December 12, 2005	1:30 PM
05-021	December 12, 2005	1:30 PM

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before:

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS	TIME
05-018	December 27, 2005	9:00 AM
05-019	December 27, 2005	9:00 AM
05-020	December 27, 2005	1:30 PM
05-021	December 27, 2005	1:30 PM

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in Section 22.1 of the Bid Data Sheet. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be on the following dates at the ***3rd Floor, Executive Conference Room, Bureau of Internal Revenue, NOB, Diliman, Quezon City.*** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address.

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	BID OPENING	TIME
05-018	December 27, 2005	9:00 AM
05-019	December 27, 2005	9:00 AM
05-020	December 27, 2005	1:30 PM
05-021	December 27, 2005	1:30 PM

9. **The Bureau of Internal Revenue** assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.
10. **The Bureau of Internal Revenue** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s.

Bureau of Internal Revenue
Atty. James H. Roldan
Assistant Commissioner-Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Rm. 605, 6/F Procurement Division
BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 9265547/Telefax No. 9282026
Email Address. bac@bir.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **JAMES H. ROLDAN**
Assistant Commissioner, Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Nov. 28 & Dec. 5, 2005)

SULTAN KUDARAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Tacurong City

INVITATION TO BID

1.) The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUKELCO) is inviting sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of One (1) unit SF6 Gas Circuit Breaker Dead Tank with the following specifications:

Rated Lightning Impulse Withstand Voltage:	350kV
Rated Short Circuit Breaking Current :	25kA or greater
Maximum Working Voltage:	72.5kV
Rated Voltage:	69kV
Rated Current:	1,250A
Rated Frequency:	60Hz

2) The SF6 Power Circuit Breaker and all accessories must be brand new and either Chinese, US or European brand/made. Civil works include foundation for the Power Circuit Breaker and the battery cabinet.

3) SUKELCO prefers bidders that accept P500T downpayment and offer financing scheme of the balance for six (6) months. Bidders must show an Official Manufacturer's Certificate from the manufacturer. Successful bidder must present IEC or other equivalent international standards Test Results. Bidders who wish to apply for eligibility may submit, together with the bids, the following requirements, duly notarized : 1) DTI business name registration, 2) SEC registration certificate, 3) Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year, 4) Copy of TIN issued by BIR or copy of BIR registration showing TIN, 5) Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding any government or private agency, office or corporation, 6) Audited Financial Statements, stamped "received" by the BIR.

4) Deadline for submission of sealed bids shall be on December 22, 2005

5) Submit sealed bids to:
The Chairman
Pre-Bids and Awards Committee
Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Tacurong City

6) SUKELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the cooperative.

7) Interested bidders may obtain further information at the following address:
Godofredo F Sanchez
Engineering Department
Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Tacurong City
064-200-3155/4050
Fax. No. 064-200-3156

(Sgd.) DEMETRIO O. JEREZ
General Manager

(PDI Dec 5 & 12 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
MACTAN-CEBU BRIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD
Office of the Provincial Governor
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO BID

The Mactan-Cebu Bridge Management Board (MCBMB), through the Bids and Awards Committee of the Cebu Provincial Government, pursuant to MCBMB Resolution No. 2005-16, invites all interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding for the RENTAL/LEASE of 130 LAMP POSTS located at the First Mandaue-Mactan and the Marcelo Fernan Bridges for advertisement purposes, with a floor price of **PhP110,000.00 per month for 12 months** (1 February 2006 – 31 January 2007).

Sealed bids will be received by the bids and Awards Committee – Goods and Services (BAC-GS) of the Cebu Provincial Government through its Secretariat, at the BAC Conference Room, Office of the Provincial General Services, 2nd Floor, Cebu Provincial Capitol Building, Capitol, Cebu City. The schedule of activities relative to the bidding is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	December 5, 2005 – Jan. 4, 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference	December 16, 2005, 10:00 a.m.
3. Opening of Bids	January 5, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

Bids may be secured from the BAC-GS Secretariat at the aforementioned address, upon presentation of an official letter of intent and payment of a non-refundable amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P 1,000) ONLY to the Cash Receipts Division, Office of the Provincial Treasurer.

All Bids (in pesos) must be accompanied by a bid security, payable to the Provincial Treasurer of Cebu, either in the form of cash, cashier's check or manager's check, equivalent to one percent (1%) of the floor price (rental for 12 months). Bids and bid securities shall be valid for at least ninety (90) days. Failure to enclose the required bid security in the form and amount prescribed herein shall automatically disqualified the bid.

The MCBMB reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept the offer it deems most advantageous to government.

For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at tel. nos. 253-9614 / 254-1629 or 416-6065.

(Sgd.) GOV. GWENDOLYN F. GARCIA
MCBMB Chairman

(PDI - Dec 5 & 12 2005)

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Inflation rate seen to breach 9% mark in '06

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPment Authority believes that inflation will breach the 9-percent mark next year once the value-added tax rate is increased from 10 to 12 percent in February as stipulated under the VAT Reform Law.

Neda projections in particular showed that, under a 12-percent VAT regime average, inflation would settle at 9.2 percent in 2006.

The new VAT law states that the government may only raise the VAT rate by two percentage points next year on two conditions: VAT collections as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) must be at least 2.8 percent, and the budget deficit must be 1.5 percent of GDP or higher.

In recent years, VAT collections had always exceeded 2.8 percent of GDP and the budget deficit would surpass 1.5 percent of the economic growth. Based on this trend, officials are almost sure that the VAT rate will be raised next year.

The VAT law, implemented last Nov. 1, expanded the coverage of the tax to include previously exempted products, such as oil and electricity, as well as medical and legal services.

Neda projected that inflation in the 1st quarter of 2006 might reach 8.8 percent. In the second quarter, it might be 9.4 percent, in the third, 9.5 percent, and in the fourth, 8.2 percent.

Since VAT is an indirect tax, businesses can simply pass on the charge to consumers through higher prices, which may accelerate inflation.

With inflation projected to go as high as 9 percent next year, economic managers may have to recompute the government's macroeconomic targets.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee has already assumed in its 2006 program that inflation will range between 8 and 8.5 percent.

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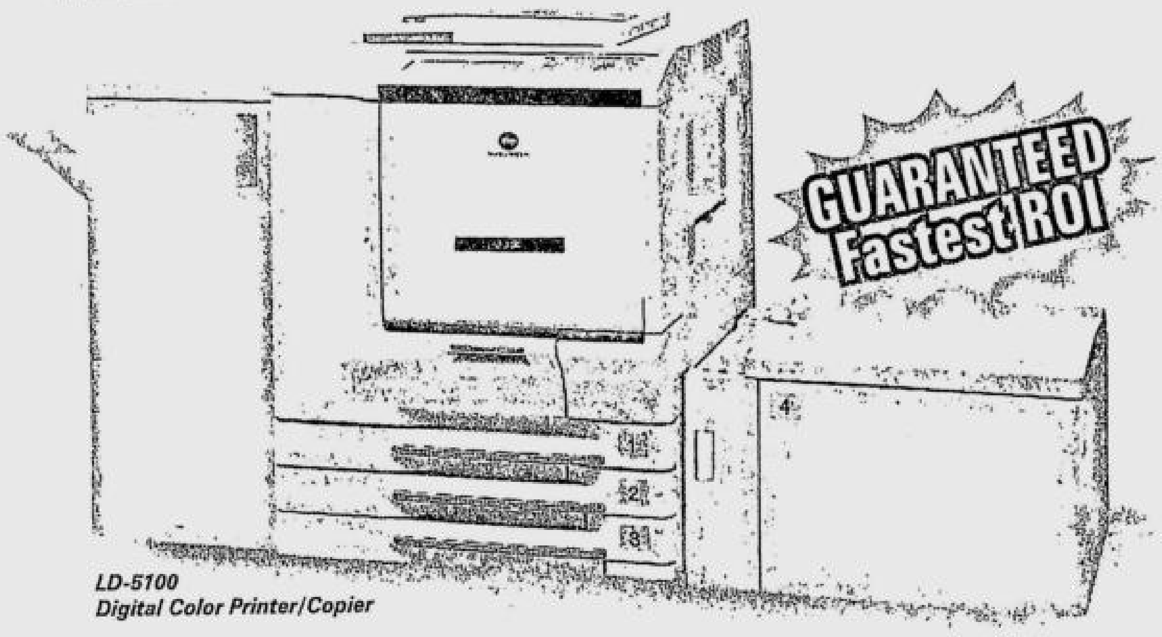

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GLOBE, SMART, SUN LOSE PEOPLE

Indonesia calls on RP execs to man telcos

By Clarissa S. Batino

A BIGGER PAY, A higher position and a promise of a more rewarding career is enticing several local telecom executives to leave for neighboring Indonesia where the telecom bubble is frothing.

Anastacio "Boy" Martirez, the former marketing whiz of Smart Communications Inc. had just accepted Friday, the offer of Indonesia's Sinar Mas Group to head its telecom business starting January.

. The Sinar Mas Group owns Asian Pulp & Paper Co. Ltd., which is one of the largest supplier of paper in the region. It also has investments in agriculture, finance, real estate and lately in telecoms through a new company called Sinar Mobil.

Indonesia is like a bigger version of the Philippines, except that it is just starting to develop its mobile phone sector while the latter is ahead by 10 years.

The Indonesian government had just awarded months ago about three new mobile phone licenses. Currently, there are only three players—Telkomsel, Satelindo and Excelcomindo Pratama.

Penetration rate in Indonesia—or the percentage of the population owning a cellular phone—is only 10 percent, according to Martirez.

The slow progress of telecoms in Indonesia was blamed on the inability of the private sector to readily fund new investments after the rupiah collapsed in 1998.

So while its neighbors in the region were signing up subscribers by truck loads and ringing up tremendous profits,

INDONESIA/ B2-2

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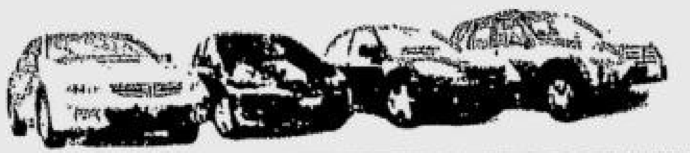

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Increasing OFW remittances—boon or bane?

MAPping THE FUTURE
Augusto L. de Leon

THE MONEY SENT HOME BY overseas Filipino workers is at an all time high of over $10 billion. It could even double if undocumented remittances were included.

Government leaders have said that the increase in the dollar remittances was a great achievement of this administration.

Our financial leaders likewise said the increasing amount of dollar inflows was helping improve the economy. Analysts also said remittances improved due to the government's success in finding work abroad for Filipinos, such that there are now 800,000 OFWs in all corners of the world.

The quality of the overseas workers was likewise improving.

The first Filipinos sent abroad were skilled, blue-collar workers, then for a long while we provided less skilled service workers. Today, educated professionals are abroad, and because they earn more, they remit more dollars to the country.

But as more of our educated professionals leave the country, we deplete our middle class, an essential ingredient in building a strong Republic.

What makes it good news for those who claim credit for the increasing remittances?

As remittances increase, it improves our GNP growth figures as remittances are counted as part of the country's income. More dollars improves the profit and loss statement for the year.

But what makes increasing dollar remittance bad news?

Many have pointed out the social cost of having separated families. This aspect has been aired out by social and religious advocates.

What about for those in business?

When we need the $10 billion to maintain the equilibrium of the economy, it highlights the fact that our economy is not able to generate $10 billion worth of the labor component of exports.

We thus have, at the very least, an economic deficiency of $10 billion worth of exports.

Since that is only the labor component of economic production, there is a much larger deficiency in our capacity to create wealth.

Our economy is deprived of the spillover effect of having 800,000 people creating wealth within the economy. Instead, 800,000 of our productive people are creating wealth in the economy of their host countries.

The bulk of the remittances also end up in consumption.

A published article has an SM executive admitting that half of the SM sales comes from the patronage of the beneficiaries of the overseas Filipino workers.

Just from observation, we know that most of the consumer goods being sold in the market are produced in China. So the income just helps support the employment of the sales people in the stores.

In contrast, if our manpower resource was deriving income from economic activities in the country, like a food processing company, the spillover will be much greater in terms of purchases of local raw materials, expenditure for other services required by a company operating in the country.

Looking at the economic aspect in another way, we have 800,000 of our people who are productive but can not find work within the economy.

That we have 800,000 workers abroad is a measure of the deficiency of our economy to create jobs. Not counting the many who are jobless in the country and unable to move to other countries.

In the parlance of business, we may show an improvement in our P&L for the year, but if we take a look at the balance sheet over the past years, the quality has been deteriorating.

Investors do not just look at the P&L for the year. More important is an analysis of the balance sheet.

If the quality of the country's balance sheet is deteriorating, there will be very little incentive for those with capital to make the investments.

What is worrisome is that if investments do not improve, where will we source the dollars we need to service out debts?

Increasing taxes like the Value Added Tax can improve the peso revenue of the government, but foreign exchange will still have to be generated to support the growing appetite of the government and the economy. Only two years ago, government had to import 800,000 tons of rice.

Last year, the government imported 1.7 million tons of rice in spite of the reported good harvest due to the agricultural input assistance government has been able to give to the farmers.

This highlights the huge appetite of the economy for foreign exchange in order to survive.

A perceptive economist whispered to me that with the VAT and the remittances, the financial economy is improving, but the real economy is weaker than ever.

More remittances means lack of exports. More workers abroad means the increasing inability of the economy to support its population. Boon or bane? You be the judge.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is Principal Consultant of De Leon Consulting. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Proxy limitation

Corporate Securities Info
Raul Palabrica

OWNERS OF SHARES OF STOCKS WHO, for one reason or another, cannot attend the regular or special stockholders' meetings often use proxies to enable them to indirectly participate in those corporate activities.

A proxy is defined "as the authority given by the holder of a stock, or by a member in case of a non-stock corporation, to a person to attend and/or exercise his voting rights in meetings of stockholders or members."

Through the proxy system, a corporation can comply with the voting requirements of the law in the conduct of its business without requiring the physical presence of all its stockholders.

In a recent query to the Securities and Exchange Commission, a member of a non-stock corporation asked whether the proxy rule applies to his organization whose members are professionals spread out all over the country and elsewhere in the world.

Apparently, the corporation finds difficulty mustering a quorum for its meetings due to the scattered location of its members.

General rule

By way of background, the Corporation Code defines a non-stock corporation as one where no part of its income can be distributed as dividends to its members, trustees or officers.

The income, if any, that a non-stock corporation may earn from its operation can only be used to meet the financial requirements of its corporate objectives, usually charitable or socially-oriented.

Replying to the query, the SEC stated that although the Code is intended to apply to both stock and non-stock corporations, there are instances when its provisions are applicable to only one of them. The proxy rule is one of those exceptions.

Under Sec. 58 of the Code, proxy voting is a matter of right for shareholders of stock corporations.

All it takes to exercise this right is for the stockholder to make the appointment of the proxy in writing and, after signing, file it with the corporate secretary before the scheduled meeting.

But what an earlier provision of the Code gave to shareholders of stock corporations, it withheld from members of non-stock corporations.

Exception

Sec. 89 states that "Unless otherwise provided by the articles of incorporation or the by-laws, a member may vote by proxy in accordance with the provisions of this Code."

Thus, the right of members to vote by proxy may be denied entirely by appropriate provisions in the articles of incorporation or by-laws of a non-stock corporation.

If the law allows the disallowance of proxy voting in non-stock corporations, it follows that qualifications or limitations on the appointment of proxies may be similarly provided in the basic documents of those corporations.

Consistent with this position, the SEC took a close look at the articles of incorporation and by-laws of the non-stock corporation subject of the query.

As it turned out, those two documents did not contain any provision that denies its members the right to vote by proxy. Neither were there provisions which qualify or limit the appointment of proxies.

In the absence of those restrictions, the SEC ruled that the non-stock corporation was free to use the proxy mechanism in any manner that stock corporations are allowed to do under existing regulations.

Rationale

The SEC ruling was silent on the question that probably must have crossed the mind of many: Why are non-stock corporations treated differently from stock corporations with regard to proxy rights?

Except for the element of profit, the two classes of corporations are similar in terms of composition, property rights and other features.

The records of the congressional deliberations on Sec. 89 of the Code are silent on what prompted the lawmakers to give non-stock corporations the power to deny their members the right to vote by proxy.

An expert on corporation law commented that this denial is probably "anchored on the general concept that non-stock corporations are supposed to promote camaraderie, togetherness and solidarity among the members which could best be achieved by the personal presence of the members in all its meetings and affairs.

(For comments or questions concerning this article, you may write to rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.)

Indonesia calls on RP execs to man telcos

From page B2-1

six of its nine telcos went under while two foreign players left in a huff.

It was only in the last few years that the Indonesian telco scene started bubbling again.

"With a population of 280 million and a socioeconomic structure similar to the Philippines, it is a golden opportunity for telecom executives to reprise in Indonesia what he or she has done here in our country," says Martirez in an interview Friday after accepting Sinar Mas' offer.

Of the Philippines' 84 million people, more than 30 million own a mobile phone. Everyday, more than 400 million text messages are sent daily, making the Philippines the world's texting capital.

Much of the rapid growth is being attributed to the innovative ways that telcos have sold their products. One of the major drivers is the electronic loading system that brought down the cell phone load denomination to as low as P25 sent through text messaging.

Such innovation, according to Martirez, could be replicated in Indonesia where prospects are rosy.

In three years, some Indonesian players are looking to grow subscribers by two to three times.

Martirez had a highly-publicized departure from Smart weeks ago. The market was abuzz with talk of why he left—not all of which show Martirez in a positive light. While his next employer was a matter of a guessing game, he had said in no uncertain terms right after he resigned from Smart that he would accept a job in Indonesia.

It turned out that the former Smart executive was not the only one leaving for Indonesia. Several others have paved the road.

One is Alex Caeg, one of Martirez's trusted in the marketing unit of Smart. Caeg had reportedly accepted a job with Indonesia's Mobile 8 for triple the salary and a host of attractive benefits.

Sun Cellular also lost two vice presidents to Indonesian telcos. Annie Naval, former vice president for marketing of Sun Cellular and Joey Vincoy, former VP for network operations left for greener pastures in the neighboring oil-rich country.

Globe too, was not spared from the migration. One of its executives, Nicky Santiago (who is married to former beauty queen Sara Jane Paez) left the country's second-largest telco for PT Excelcomindo Pratama.

William Pamintuan, senior vice president of Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. says it won't be surprising if several other telco executives would pack their bags and drag their families to Indonesia.

"In the region, the Philippines is known to be one of the more advanced when it comes to telecoms," said the head of legal of Digitel.

But there won't be any talent shortage even if Indonesia would pirate more local telco executives, assured Pamintuan.

The local industry had created a pool of very-abled technical and marketing people who have a wealth of experience already. Anybody, he said, can just pick up the slack.

"Nobody is irreplaceable in the first place," he quips.

Asked if he had received any offer, Pamintuan says that marketing and technical people were more in demand in Indonesia than lawyers.

Surely, he says that Filipinos who would establish their careers in Indonesia would open up similar opportunities for their colleagues here.

"You know how it goes with us. Once those guys have a solid footing, they would start recruiting their friends and families," says the Digitel executive. "If you think about it, the movement would also open up opportunities for local executives to be promoted."

The ones left have a better chance of moving up instead of waiting for their bosses to burn out or fade away.

"Now, those angling for a better career in telecoms just have to pray that their bosses get pirated by an Indonesian telco," Pamintuan says jokingly.

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Taking the right turn

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

AS PRESIDENT OF FORD MOtor Co., Robert McNamara once briefly pondered a decision made by one of his executives and then asked him, "What did you decide not to do?"

It wasn't that McNamara thought the executive had made a poor decision—but how could he know for sure if he didn't know what options had been rejected?

McNamara, as a wise and successful leader, wanted to be satisfied that multiple options had been considered. He didn't settle for the obvious decision, even if it looked good on the surface. He wanted the best decision.

Why is it important to consider multiple options during the decision making process? Here are three reasons:

1. With options come possibilities.

Not long after moving to the Atlanta area, I realized that the drive from my home to the airport takes 35 minutes—if I leave at 6:30 a.m. If I leave just 15 minutes later, at 6:45 a.m., the same drive takes an hour. And if I wait until 7 a.m., that same drive takes 80 minutes.

Driving in Atlanta traffic has trained me to become a student of the routes and time because they help define my options.

When I arrive somewhere early, sometimes I double back and look for new ways to make the same trip. I want to know my options. That way, when the obvious route slows to a crawl, I know my options and I often come up with a creative solution.

If we don't have options or if we don't know our options, we're stuck. We have little choice but to stay in the traffic jam.

In decision making, if we do not have options, we only have one decision. And that decision may be the wrong decision, or it may not be the best decision.

2. With options come insights.

The more options we have, the more we can see what is not obvious to others. And people who are successful see what is not obvious to others. They don't see what others can't see; they just see what others don't seem to see.

Successful people engage that creative part of their minds and ask, "Well, I wonder how else I can look at this problem? I wonder how else I could deal with this decision? I wonder what other possibilities I have there?"

3. With options come options.

Options are a result of thinking early, often and differently. And when we think early, often and differently, we begin to create more options within our life.

Options come from the disciplines of pursuing options. And very often they take us down roads we never would have traveled, to places we never would have seen, where we find new options we never would have considered.

Fred Smith, a businessman in Texas who has been one of my mentors, has a sign on his desk that says, "But on the other hand..." He's an optional thinker, and he's taught me to be an optional thinker, too.

So when somebody asks me to make a decision about a situation, I don't offer a solution, I ask a question: What are our options? Give me the good, give me the bad, give me the pretty, give me the ugly, give me the impossible, give me the possible, give me the convenient, give me the inconvenient.

Give me the options. All I want are options. And once I have all the options before me, then I comfortably and confidently make my decision.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2732/03 and ask for Gina. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!)

What is your leadership style?

LEADERSHIP IS DEFINED BY John W. Gardner as the process of persuasion and example by which an individual (or leadership team) induces a group to take action that is in accord with the leader's purpose, or the shared purposes of all.

It is the ability to make followers want to achieve high goals, rather than simply boss people around.

Leaders have come to use a combination of two or three of several leadership styles to match individual learning styles of those they lead. No single leadership is ideal, as one can adopt a different style for different situations and occasions.

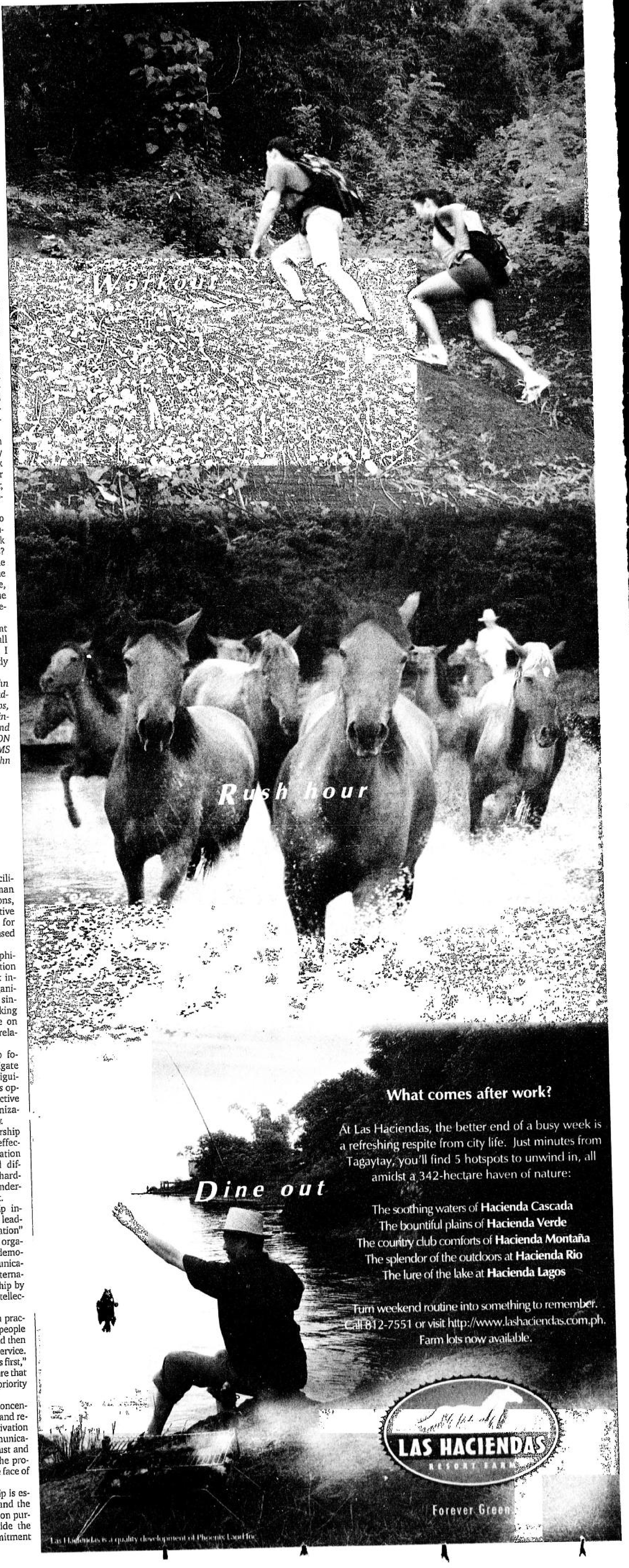
In the upcoming International Learning Styles and Leadership Conference set on Jan. 16-18 and Jan. 19-21, 2006 at the Baguio Country Club in Baguio City, world educators and leaders will come together for a gathering focused on the theme "Leadership Styles Across Cultures."

For queries, call the AIM Conference Center in Baguio through phone, (63) 074 442 8878 or email ilsc06@yahoo.com.ph.

Together, attendees will be able to delve deeper into the intricacies of the many leadership strategies that could make a difference in improving quality and championing change in the various sectors they are serving.

Below are a rundown of the many leadership strategies that define every leader's personal leadership style.

- Transformational leadership creates and sustains a context that maximizes human and organizational capabilities to facilitate multiple levels of transformation and align them with core values and a unified purpose to respond to a dynamic environment.
- Creative leadership is the ability to uniquely inspire people to generate shared innovative responses and solutions to complex and readily changing situations.
- Connective leadership empowers staff to facilitate collaboration and synergism and emphasizes working with and through other people instead of bowing to authoritarianism.
- Appreciative inquiry facilitates positive change in human systems, e.g., organizations, groups through an appreciative approach in inspiring action for collaborative and strength-based change.
- Change leadership is a philosophy that endorses alteration while beyond thinking about individuals and individual organizations, single problems and single solutions. It entails rethinking systems to introduce change on parts of the whole and their relationships to one another.
- Intelligence leadership focuses on the ability to navigate the future by embracing ambiguity and reframing problems as opportunities. It is a proactive stance in taking their organizations into uncharted territory.
- Multicultural leadership fosters team and individual effectiveness and drives for innovation by leveraging multicultural differences so that teams work harder in an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect.
- Pedagogical leadership involves a paradigm shift from leader/ teacher-centered "orientation" to an interactive, connective organizational system using a democratic, learning and communicative style. It proposes an alternative to instructional leadership by enabling the learning and intellectual growth of those led.
- Servant-leadership is a practical philosophy focusing on people who choose to serve first, and then lead as a way of expanding service. Servant-leaders are "servants first," with the object of making sure that other people's highest priority needs are being served.
- Bridging leadership concentrates on fostering synergy and reinforcing behavior and motivation through the use of communication to create climate of trust and confidence, and through the projection of confidence in the face of a difficult challenge.
- Purposeful leadership is established when a leader and the community share a common purpose to develop or provide the drive, authority and commitment to undertake projects.



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SO YOU WANT TO OPEN A CONTACT CENTER?

Is it just about knowing the new market on your old terms? You might think a fistful of dollars, an American twang, and mastery of baseball trivia are all you need to make out like a bandit in the Contact Center Industry. Even for Business School sophisticates, it's easy to be seduced by the promise of "New Economy" windfalls.

And you really can't blame them. Contact centers and other business process outsourcing. (BPO) services are the hottest growth sector in the Philippines, and our second largest dollar earner. We are just behind the Indian subcontinent with its billion people. Frenetic reports from the frontlines are whipping up a frenzy; they indicate that the battle for Western customers is heating up. This is only the beginning, and investor ears are already perking up.

[Huge Outsource Market] Even with contact center boomtowns around the country, with the creation of an entire industry subculture of insomniac agents, the well is still largely untapped. According to Datamonitor, the Philippines will have about 60,000 contact center seats filled by the end of 2005. However, it looks like the country will have over 80,000 seats by the end of the year. Senator Mar Roxas, a long time advocate of the industry's development, states that the contact center industry itself will employ 96,000 people by the end of the year, with projected revenues of US$1 billion for 2005 alone.

That's a lot of bucks for even traditional, entrenched Wharton and Kellog types to ignore. With this dramatic need for contact center seats and services, NOW is the time to get in the ground floor of this booming, profitable business.

[Entry Barriers] Even if this is a great opportunity for revenue, there are the significant barriers to entry into the market. Cost is certainly one of the biggest hurdles.

To start with, who else but visionary capitalists can assemble the logistics and capital? Choosing a location for a contact center isn't that easy. You need 24/7 facilities such as late night/early morning transportation, all-day all-night food service, and an operational ecosystem that is perpetually switched on.

Your business location also has to house and power your multimillion-dollar investment, which not only includes the PABX platform, but also data servers, routers, and call logging hardware. Only the largest contact centers can fully utilize the capacity of the hardware they purchased, and being a startup, you aren't likely to be a big-league data user right on day one. Instead, you aim to "scale up" to it.

If your head isn't aching yet, here are other startup pains: the more technology you invest in, you also need to hire more programmers and maintenance managers to maintain it. Then comes the time intensive, costly, (some would say traumatic) functions of a startup –training qualified agents.

Most likely, running a call center is not your core competency. You may have guts and gumption, and/or capital and logistics. You may have that MBA from the mid 90's or earlier tucked under your arm. You may have all that, and yet be looking at, almost literally, a mass of wires and worries on the operations floor with no one to tell you where to plug it all in. You may not have the real, practical knowledge.

But before you get an incurable headache...

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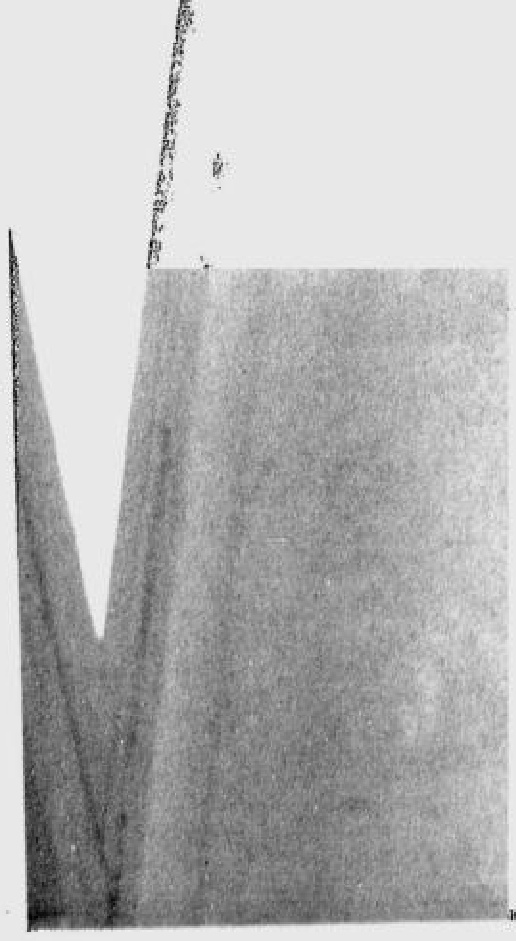
Stay tuned for information about PLDT OnCall in the coming days. If you want to know more right now, email bizsol@pldt.com.ph, or log on to www.pldtoncall.com.ph or call 874-7474. The growing contact center industry is being redefined, and you are invited to become a part of it.



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JVO's boys celebrate his legacy

THE LATE Jaime V. Ongpin

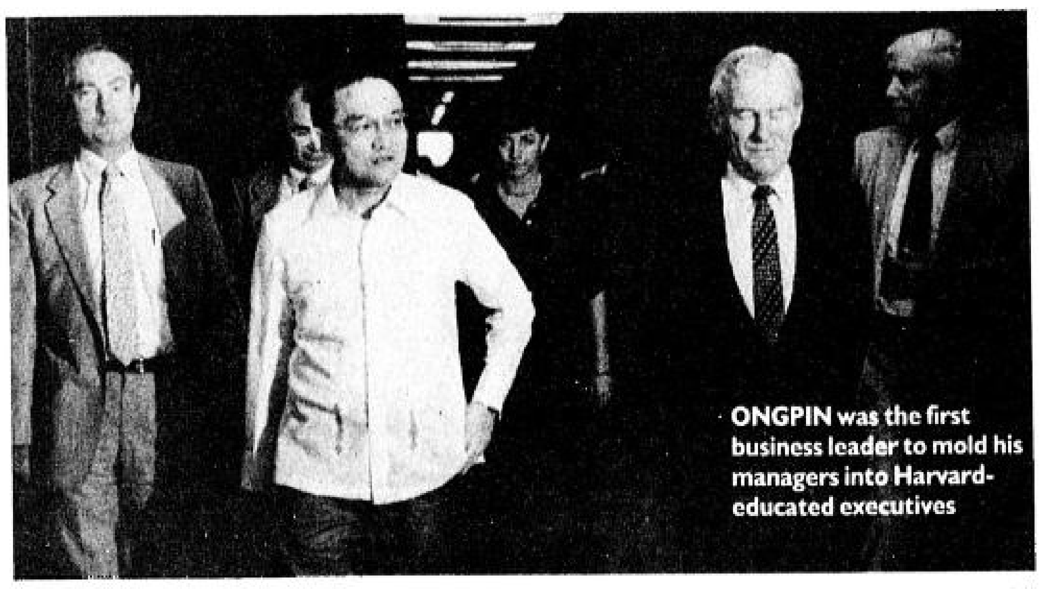
By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Call him one of "the boys of Benguet," but Amado Lagdameo, former transportation and communication secretary of former President Fidel Ramos and former chair of the Public Estates Authority, actually prefers the tag 'Jimmy's Harvard Boy."

Lagdameo, whose final years in government while serving the PEA were replete with controversy, said his real public legacy is his devotion to the vision of the late 'Jimmy"—Jaime V. Ongpin, the finance secretary of former President Corazon Aquino who was "a man of action" and "a man of conscience."

Ongpin, who died in 1987, was the first Filipino to assume the helm of the 103-year-old Benguet Corp., the country's first gold mining firm.

Ongpin was also the first business leader to mold his managers into Harvard-educated corporate executives, so he could use them to rebuild the provinces into progressive communities that advocate justice as a repudiation of the indignities of martial law, Lagdameo said.



ONGPIN was the first business leader to mold his managers into Harvard-educated executives

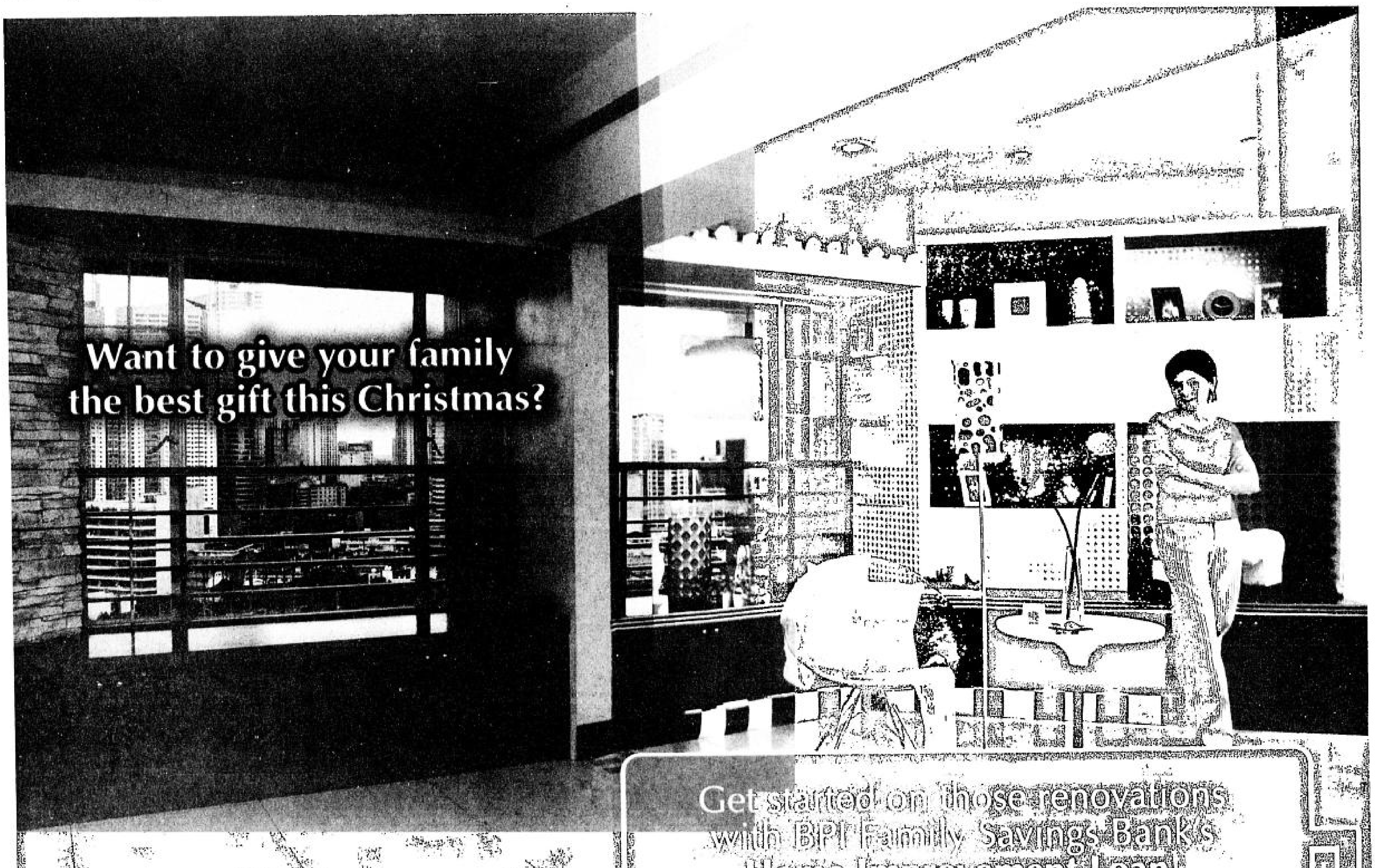
Lagdameo toasted Ongpin on Nov. 19 at a program that commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation Inc. (JVOFI) at the Baguio Country Club.

Former Agrarian Reform Secretary Ernesto Garilao and management consultant Gil Tuparan cited JVOFI in their latest case study on endowment building in Asia as "a perspective in early corporate responsibility in the Philippines."

"Under Ongpin's pressure, [Benguet Corp.] adopted a broader concept of corporate social responsibility despite the decline of the mining industry," the study said.

"Well aware of the limits of [the firm's] mining reserves, Ongpin directed in 1985 that the corporation's public affairs program be focused on community relations... [which will be guided by its policy for transforming]

JVO'S/ B3-2



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Filipino artists' works sell in Christie's auction

By Ambeth Ocampo

SOTHEBY'S CELEBRATED ITS 25 years in Singapore with a special anniversary hard-cover catalogue for its auction of Southeast Asian pictures last Oct. 9, 2005. As usual a significant number of Philippine paintings were put on the block. While almost all the paintings were sold, no record prices were made as these sold within the given estimate, some at the lower end of the estimate. This should not be seen as an indicator of a slump in the art market, but rather as an indicator of the mediocre selection that did not attract more discerning Filipino collectors.

To put its rival to shame, the recent Christies auction of Modern and Contemporary Southeast Asian Art held in Hong Kong last Sunday Nov. 27, 2005 had a finer selection of 22 Philippine paintings and one sculpture. Twelve prominent Filipino artists were represented—six of them National Artists: Pacita Abad, Fernando Amorsolo, Ang Kiukok, Ben Cabrera a.k.a Bencab, Carlos V. Francisco, Jose Joya, Mark Justiniani, Arturo Luz, Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Vicente Manansala, Onib Olmedo and Jose Santos III. If we count Indonesian painter Antonio Maria Blanco as our own that makes thirteen, since Blanco was born in the Philippines in 1907.

Perhaps the Hong Kong tour packages were cheaper than Singapore, the side-trip to the newly opened Hong Kong Disneyland further incentive, because Filipino collectors were seen on the floor to bid or cheer the others on. That collectors flew in from Manila rather than make phone bids or bid through a representative was an indication of the desirability of the artworks presented by Christie's. Seen on the floor with registered paddles were: Paulino Que, Rina Ortiz, Stanley Chan, Jeffrey Co, and even Fernando Zobel de Ayala, accompanied by Ayala Museum director Nina Baker. Observing the action at the sidelines were the upscale Makati dealers: Ramon Villegas, Kit Roxas and Vita Sarenas.

Bencab and Annie Sarthou showed up not to bid on his own work but merely to see how well it would fare at auction.

For its rarity and steep reserve price the star of the show was a 1957 painting by Carlos V. Francisco "Magpupukot" depicting a group of fishermen pulling in their catch. Reproduced on the back cover of the catalogue and four pages inside this work was in the big league with estimated price range from $153,800-$205,100. It is said that a few days before the sale the owner was approached directly by an expatriate Filipino collector who made an offer of P7 million pesos so the painting could be withdrawn from auction. It sold at the lower end of the estimate at $154,290 to an anonymous phone bidder, and rumor is that this Francisco will end up in the Singapore Art Museum that has, over the years, steadily accumulated significant Philippine works as part of an aggressive acquisitions program aimed to make the postage stamp country a major center for Southeast Asian art. If it does not surface there, it has gone to a private collector.

Another rarity was "Cyclists" by Arturo Luz, painted in 1960. Despite its age, enamel on board, was in good condition and in an impressive size at 24 2/5 x 39 inches. Estimated at $7,100-$9,000 it eventually skipped the low estimate thrice and sold for $23,000. Bencab's rather unsettling work "Park Bench No. 1" pen, ink, and acrylic on paper made in London in 1970 was estimated at $4,100-$6,400 met fierce bidding on the floor with a determined phone bidder from Manila pushing the price up to $45,000.

Readers must note that what is quoted in this article are hammer prices that do not include the 20 percent premium collected by Christies.

The regular auction house favorites Anita Magsaysay-Ho and Fernando Amorsolo did not disappoint. Magsaysay-Ho's very early (almost student-like) works sold for $54,222 and $90,370. Even an indescribable bronze sculpture made by her, one in an edition of eight sold at $3,873. Amorsolo had five works: two late works one trademark 1954 "Under the mango tree" and a tiresome 1955 "Rice harvest" that will hang proudly in any Manila living room. The three early Amorsolos were quite good: a seascape with figures done in 1940, a woman with a salakot standing amidst a tobacco field complete with a cheerful carabao that can be placed on a brand of quesong puti very much like the famous French cheese "laughing cow" or la vache qui rit. This commercial work sold for $45,185. But the jewel in this Amorsolo selection was a 1924 painting of a woman holding a basket of fruit that looks like lansones. Not very large at 27.5 x 18 3/5 inches the work was sourced from the U.S. and proceeds from the sale were earmarked for the acquisitions and endowment fund of the California Historical Society. Estimated at $25,600-$38,500 it sold at $61,968.

The prices realized from this auction (hammer price plus 20 percent premium) will be available on the internet this week All this proving that the market for Philippine art remains a steady source of pleasure and investment. *Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu*

JVO's boys celebrate his legacy

From page B3-1

ONGPIN directed in 1985 that Benguet Corp.'s public affairs program be focused on community relations.

company-dependent mining camps into administratively autonomous self-governing communities," it said.

JVOFI was the consequence of the transformation of Benguet Corp. when Ongpin created the Benguet Corp. Foundation in 1980, said Lagdameo, a former JVOFI board treasurer.

JVOFI has since grown a P1.3-billion endowment fund as of 2003 with access to donor agencies that service livelihood, water development and sanitation projects of Benguet and Zambales communities that hosted its mines.

But there was more to Ongpin than these corporate accolades.

Lagdameo said Ongpin was a "driven man."

Ongpin coined the term "crony capitalism" to establish a division between corporations that earn from the public and corporations that serve the public, Lagdameo said.

He said when former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. was assassinated in 1983, Ongpin "in a bold speech before the business community in Makati... advocated for change [by] attacking the business policy of [the late strongman Ferdinand] Marcos and his own brother [Roberto Ongpin], who was in the Cabinet [as trade secretary]."

"We were, of course, under martial law and it took a great deal of courage to speak out against the regime. The winds of change were [blowing]. Together with [businessmen] Ramon del Rosario, Jose Cuisia and Emmanuel Soriano ... Jimmy started the Manindigan, exclamation point. Please do not forget the exclamation point. It was an association asking people to take a stand and Jimmy was the first to take this stand," Lagdameo said.

"Many of you remember that Jimmy scaled the walls of Camp Crame to offer support for Juan Ponce Enrile and Fidel Ramos [in 1986]," he said.

Ongpin's business acumen prevailed in all his political and social undertakings.

At Benguet Corp., he compelled all his managers to "become Harvard business school graduates," not for the degree, but for their expertise.

Ongpin's gamble proved to be "good for the country," Lagdameo said.

Two of Ongpin's protégés became Cabinet members during the Ramos administration—Lagdameo as transportation secretary and former Benguet Corp. president and chief executive officer Delfin Lazaro as energy secretary.

Lagdameo said Teodorico "Teddy" Taguinod, another of Ongpin's "Harvard Boys," replaced him as PEA general manager.

"[Former Benguet Corp. president] Dennis Belmonte headed one of the subsidiaries of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Narcisa Escaler became ambassador to the United Nations Refugee Commission. You can see, therefore, that there was a lot of social conscience going around in Benguet Corp. led by Jimmy Ongpin," he said.

"As a footnote to our history, the National Union of Christian Democrats, the surviving party in today's Lakas CMD—which has been in power for some 11 years—was founded in my office in Benguet Corp. The United Muslim Democrats was also organized in my office," Lagdameo said.

This was Ongpin's key genius, he said.

In business as in government, Ongpin "surrounded himself with competent managers ... who moved towards established objectives ... and whose sense of social justice was unquestioned," Lagdameo said.

DLSU freshman leads PSE's Internet trading game

WING's "portfolio" gains over five percent in 17 days.

A 19-YEAR-OLD COLLEGE freshman from De La Salle University (DLSU) may be the country's next stock market hotshot.

That may hold true if DLSU economics student Wing Fai Choy can apply in the real world his savvy for picking the right investments in an ongoing, nationwide stock market game for students.

Wing has never relinquished the lead in the online, real-time and simulated game, called Stock Trading Tournament (STT), since the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) launched the STT's third annual staging on Oct. 28.

Last Friday, or after 17 trading days, Wing's P1-million "portfolio" has so far earned P55,109.35, which translates to a 5.51-percent growth of his portfolio.

But Wing's dominance is at best very shaky, because he is ahead of Pinky Ibañez, another STT contestant, by a very tenuous 0.03 percent.

The portfolio of Ibañez, a student from the University of the Visayas (UV), has far grown by P54,827.01, which translates to a 5.48-percent growth of her portfolio.

The two contestants are in no way dominating the STT, because three others are bunched close behind them. They are DLSU's Benson Louie Go, whose portfolio is up by 4.7 percent, Joy Misa (up by 4.5 percent) and Marissa Sestoso (up by 4.27 percent). The last two are also UV students.

The PSE started the annual STT three years ago as part of a program to hone the stock market skills of students and promote stock market awareness and investments.

"Our top prioritiy now is to help develop an investment-consciousness among ordinary Filipinos and one way to achieve the priority is to teach them how to invest in the stock market," PSE president and CEO Francis Lim said.

"We are reaching out to young Filipinos to inculcate in their minds the knowledge of stock trading through the Internet," Lim added.

Over 500 students from Metro Manila, Baguio, La Union, Isabela, Pampanga, Tarlac, Tuguegarao, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon, Rizal, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Iloilo, Cebu, North Cotabato and Davao joined this year's tournament.

The simulation game, which the PSE created in cooperation with the Philippine Association of Collegiate Schools of Business (PACSB), is open to business students from all schools affiliated with the PACSB.

The online tournament offers players a real-world trading experience, which helps them hone their stock market knowledge, as well as techniques to predict market behavior.

At the start of the tournament, each player is given a virtual credit of P1 million as initial play money. Rankings are based on the player's virtual portfolio value.

The tournament, which can be accessed through the PSE website (www.pse.com.ph), will last for 60 days or until January. Cash and other cool prizes await the winners at the awarding ceremony slated in February 2006.

Like the real action at the PSE trading floor, transactions are made from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Real-time prices as well as the same trading rules and regulations in the PSE including commissions, transaction fees and taxes are applied in the game.

The dramatic response from so wide an audience has prompted the PSE to tap PACSB's help in enticing more contestants.

"I hope that by the time the tournament concludes in January, the students would have a deeper understanding of the value of investing," Lim said.

Predict, plan...

From page B3-4

RED Cross packs usually contain food and other basic things.

manitarian Cross and Pearl S. Buck Award, and remains as chair of the Olongapo Red Cross chapter.

By 19, Gordon became active in the movement but admits his heart was not yet in it. It was just something that he had to naturally get into. His first volunteer work was helping during a landslide. His job was to direct people so with a bullhorn he would tell lines of people where to go.

But he began to like it and became seriously involved in volunteerism even when he started working. And much as he hated seeing blood, he was a regular donor and gave blood until he was in his late 20s.

Recently, he was elected member of the governing board of the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement (IFRC) during its 15th Session of the General Assembly held recently in Seoul, South Korea.

The General Assembly is the supreme body of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Delegates from all national societies who are members of the federation meet once every two years and determine the general policy of the organization, elect the President, appoint the Secretary General, take decisions on the admission and suspension of national societies, among other important matters. Each member society represented has one vote.

Mario R. Nery, PNRC governor and chairman, International Affairs, said that for the first time, under Gordon, the PNRC has become an active donor and player in providing relief and assistance to other countries hit by significant natural disasters and calamities. The PNRC has also been noted for its promptness and efficiency in responding to natural and manmade disasters in the Philippines, especially in cases of strong typhoons and earthquakes.

The challenge for Gordon today is to activate the over one million Red Cross members and volunteers nationwide.

He wants to ensure that each of the over 40,000 barangays in the country has 25 volunteers that can be tapped any time there is a disaster or tragedy.

The PNRC is also trying to attract younger members to the organization to start the spirit of volunteerism early.

Young volunteers are taught first aid and other life-saving techniques.

Gordon says that although most of the people in PNRC are only volunteers, they are trained well. Management principles are applied in the training, such as predict, plan, prepare and practice.

"You cope and mitigate when it happens," he adds.

Gordon believes such training would benefit the Philippines in its stride to become a developed and progressive nation.

Red Cross runs on contributions and Gordon boasts that he was able to tap firms to give generously. He says he has raised over P40 million for the organization.

The other known faces behind the Red Cross are former actress Rosa Rosal who is the chair of the Blood Service Committee; Leslie Espino, co-chair of the same committee.

PNRC governors include Leonida B. Ortiz, Jose Puyat, Juan Miguel Zubiri, Lourdes Casas Quezon, Leonor Ines Luciano, Reynaldo Alcasid, Rodolfo Garcia, George T. Yang and Nona Ricafort.

Dumaguete ...

From page B3-4

who could do well in the international arena if given the opportunity to take on projects outsourced by architectural firms in advanced countries.

Taking on outsourced architectural designs is what Sinco is preparing his company, the Entheos IT, for.

"We're expecting more jobs to come in from the US, and that could greatly help the economies of the two countries."

Dumaguete is also expected to benefit from this development, especially after Mayor Agustin Perdices tapped Foundation University to act as the city's planning commission.

"Another feature of this software is that this allows the users to share their designs. So, if we will design, say, a government complex, the students will be able to work on the different buildings at once that they could join together later. The other programs don't allow you to do that," Sinco said.

If the ArchiCad-literate architectural students from Foundation University help the city in making its development plans, would we see a different Dumaguete in the next few years?

Let's wait and see.

Cyber criminals peddle wares on ignored Web sites

SAN FRANCISCO—Cyber criminals peddling illegal wares such as programs to hack into computers and stolen bank account numbers are moving to abandoned Web sites where their activities are harder to track, security experts say.

Dormant Web sites no longer monitored by administrators have in effect created hundreds of online bazaars for criminals, said Jim Melnick, director of threat intelligence for VeriSign Inc.'s security unit IDefense.

"I compare it to a low-income area where a landlord is not keeping up certain buildings, or the drug trade," he said. "If a person gets busted on one corner they will move to another."

Financial fraud cost consumers and businesses about nearly $15 billion in 2005 with some 10 million victims falling prey to identity theft, according to Avivah Litan of the market research firm Gartner. She said consumers recouped much of their losses, leaving businesses to pick up the tab.

Security experts say they fear cyber criminals in the market for stolen financial and personal information will soon shift their sights to the hard-to-track locations.

Making it more difficult for authorities, the advertisements for stolen software or personal information often appear on Web sites that typically raise little suspicion.

For example, the message board for Boston-based band Beatsoup included dozens of postings offering hacking programs, stolen software and in some cases advertisements for credit card numbers and online banking logins.

An active link for the Grand Rapids, Michigan-based Christian Rock group Sojourn contains postings encouraging users to download something called Paypal Database Hacker v1.5. *Reuters*

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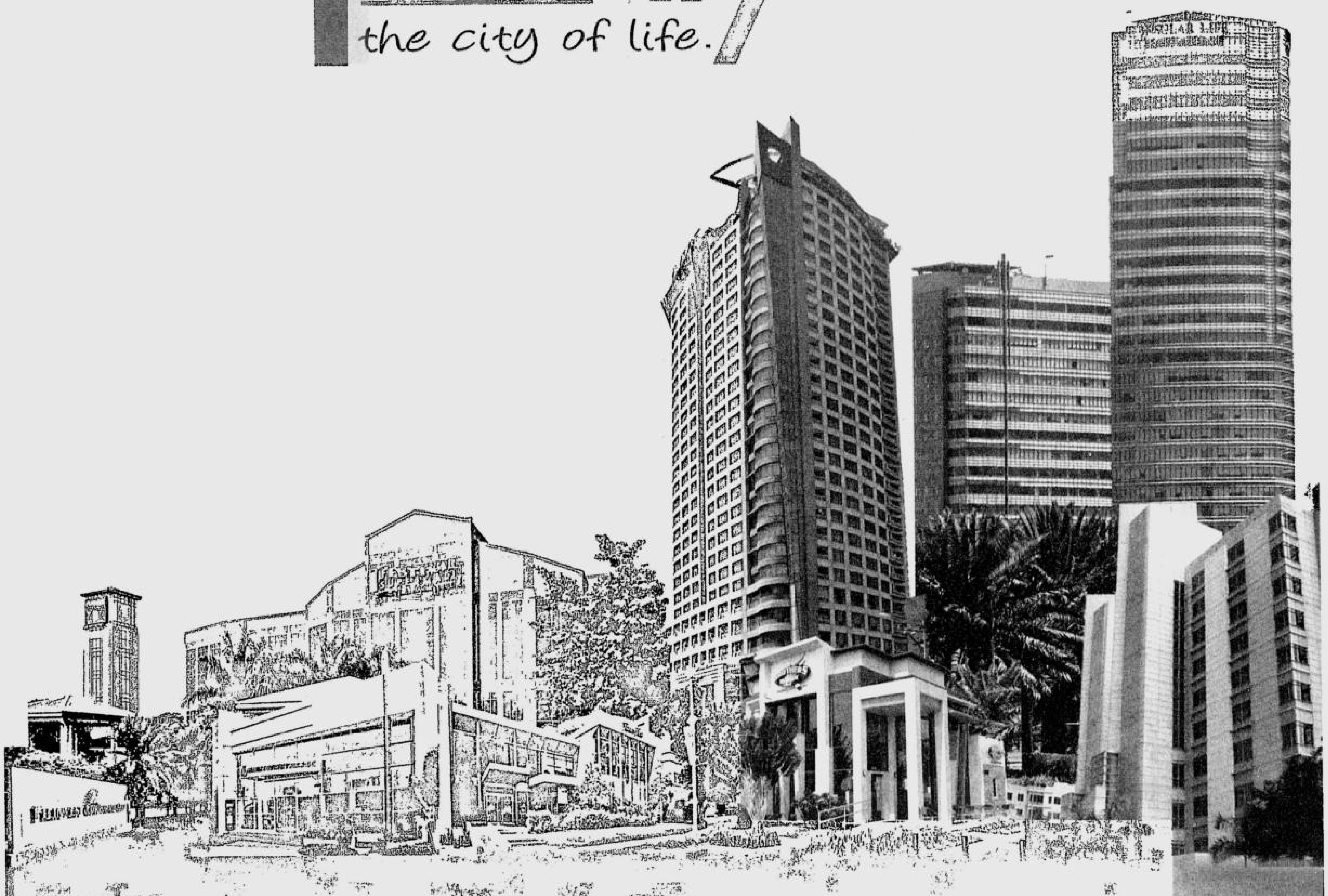

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High-tech companies and 24/7 outsourcing firms have found their niche in Northgate Cyberzone. Major local and multinational corporations have also claimed their place, led by the landmark towers of Insular Life. Filicity is now a major business center and I.T. hub in the South.

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Predict, plan, prepare and practice

PNRC chair Richard Gordon with an Infanta, Quezon, local during a rescue operation.

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE PICTURE OF HIS MOTHER, AMELIA, going out in a grey uniform, looking "very pretty" remains etched in his mind.

His mother would go out every night because of her volunteer work with the Red Cross which she founded in Subic.

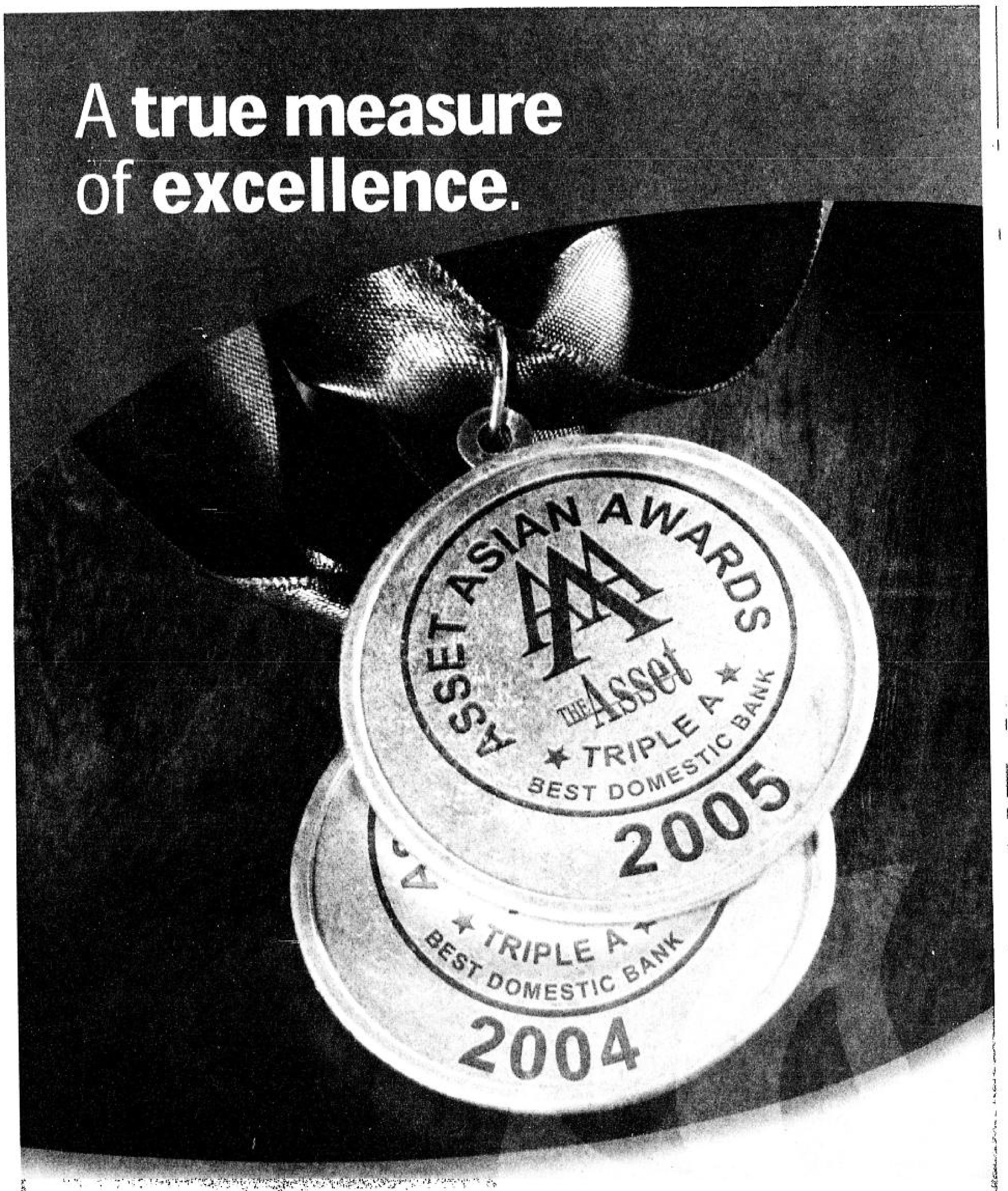
And because of this involvement, Philippine National Red Cross chair Richard J. Gordon learned to live in a house which always had strangers—orphans, flood or fire victims. But there would always be "hot lugaw" in the kitchen, ready to feed a battalion. The lugaw was usually prepared by a restaurant his mother owned.

Helping others and volunteerism were common topics at the Gordon dinner table. In fact, it is in his blood—his great-grandfather, Col. Jose Tagle, volunteered to lead Filipino guerillas in the Battle of Imus, the first victory of the Revolution against Spain in September 1896.

Gordon's father, James, was the founding father of Olongapo who led his town's people to victory in securing the town's freedom from the Americans in 1959.

His mother is a recipient of the Gold Hu-

PREDICT/ B3-2



Equitable PCI Bank is the Best Domestic Bank in the Philippines for the second year in a row.

Hong Kong-based The Asset, one of Asia's leading regional finance publications, has again named Equitable PCI Bank as "The Best Domestic Bank in the Philippines for 2005" in The Asset Triple A Country Awards.

After an extensive qualitative and quantitative rating of the Bank's performance, Equitable PCI Bank was recognized for its excellence in the financial services industry in the country.

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Dumaguete to produce world-class architects

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—TODAY'S ARCHITECTS may no longer be seen creating their designs using pen and paper. Computers have changed all that. It is no longer uncommon to find architects facing computer monitors and using a mouse instead of a pencil.

For a long time, architects took pride in their knowledge of the AutoCad program, which cuts weeks of work down to a matter of hours.

Although not quite new, there is one program that is further changing the workplace: the ArchiCad.

The ArchiCad has been an industry leader for the past several years and is used in 55 countries and translated in 32 languages, explained Rex Maximilian, a Hawaii-based architect.

Maximilian, who also teaches ArchiCad all over the United States, and in some other countries, was in Dumaguete last week to teach ArchiCad to some architects of the Entheos IT company, and future architecture students of Foundation University.

Maximilian was invited by Victor Vicente Sinco, president of Entheos IT, and Foundation University's VP for finance.

Maximilian and Sinco have worked together in Hawaii from 1992 until Sinco moved to the Philippines in 1998 to help run their school.

"The traditional Computer Aided Design (CAD) software was two-dimensional, consisting of lines, and no intelligent information. With this three-dimension software using the Building Information Model (BIM) technology, an architect only needs to make one 3D model. Any changes you make on one part of the model, say a window, will automatically update all the other plans with that window in mind," Maximilian said.

This ArchiCad program also gives the architect information about the building's life cycle, cost, heating, or air-conditioning requirements.

Despite the wide usage of ArchiCad in advanced countries, particularly in Europe, this program, which initially started as a Macintosh software, has not yet been used extensively in this predominantly Windows-based country.

ArchiCad launched its Windows version only a few years ago.

Foundation University expects to have an edge in its architecture program, which it will revive in June, because it will use this software from day one.

"Most colleges in the US are now making the transition from two-dimension to the BIM technology. But FU is starting from the foundation of this new technology," Maximilian said.

Students who will enroll in June in the architecture program under the School of Industrial Engineering & Technology of Foundation University will be required to have a computer.

The students and the school will stand to benefit from the package of ArchiCad which will give 50 licenses for only $150 for the student version of the program, compared to the $4,000 required for the professional version.

For Sinco, the revival of their architecture school and the introduction of ArchiCad should have been done many years ago.

"Bringing in new programs now is not so much to improve the school, but to fill a niche, because the only architectural program in the region doesn't really quite fit the bill in terms of international competitiveness," Sinco said.

Sinco, who has been using this program since 1992, noted there were a lot of talented architects in the Philippines

DUMAGUETE/ B3-2

Culture pays off for solutions company

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ALMOST ALL COMPANIES WORTH THEIR salt will say that they owe their success to improving the welfare of the company, the customer and the employee.

But if these priorities were ranked, most companies, unfortunately, would put the employee at the bottom of the list.

Do so at your own peril, according to Jim Davis, senior vice president and chief marketing officer of SAS.

Davis told Business Monday during his last visit to the Philippines that in a world where goods and services easily move between companies, and between countries, it is the human resource pool that becomes the main selling point, the key to continued corporate success.

Davis argued that if the employees were happy, more ideas would come out in the workplace which, in turn, leads to quality products and superior customer service.

With these firmly in place, revenue would naturally come the company's way.

"Most companies, however, undervalue the impact of the employee on the company," Davis said.

At SAS, the world's largest privately-held software company, Davis said the culture of taking care of the employees was well-entrenched and has literally paid dividends.

SAS has posted a double-digit growth for almost every year since 1976 when the company was put up, and was ranked the 8th in Fortune Magazine's list of 100 Best Places to Work For.

"We never had a down year and I believe that culture has everything to do with it," Davis said.

Davis said one of the best things going for the company was its belief that there was no such thing as a bad idea, as long as it was conceived on the premise that it would help further the company's goals of finding solutions for its customers' problems.

Room for failure

There is also much room for failure at SAS as management looks at failure as delayed success.

"There is no bad idea, and no retribution or punishment when something you believed in didn't really work out," Davis said, "If you haven't had a failure, then you did not do your job."

Such an attitude breeds innovation, which is crucial for a company such as SAS that plows back about a third of its revenue in research and development, the heart of any software development company.

Davis also said SAS keeps a relatively flat organization where individuals and teams motivate themselves to achieve their set goals.

Employees, he said, were looked at as part of the company's success and not just cogs in the wheel that moves SAS forward.

They are encouraged to work among themselves and treat each other like good neighbors.

They also know that they will only get ahead on merit.

"We are not big on self-promotion. If you are, you are not going to cut it," Davis said, "There are no superstars in our team environment."

Then there's the compensation package.

He said SAS has a profit sharing scheme equivalent to about 15 percent of the annual salary, on top of the usual bonuses and perks that cut across the software development industry.

Davis, however, said that it was not just the money that keeps SAS staff with the company.

This was proven in the late 1990s when a number of SAS staff left the company to join dot-com companies that offered lavish perks and superior compensation because of the surge in demand for their stock.

Work, life balance

Many became millionaires overnight, and boasted of substantial shares in these dot-com firms.

Davis admitted that it was a challenge and a cause for some fear.

But when the dot-com bubble burst not too long after, it proved to the industry that stability and viability of the workplace were more important over the long term than the chance for a quick buck.

SAS emerged from that era stronger than ever, and turnover since then has remained at less than 10 percent compared to an industry average where about one of five people leave in a year.

Davis also said that SAS believed in balancing work and family, such that people are encouraged to finish their work early and go home to be with their families or to go out on the soccer field or gym and take care of their health.

But if there's work to be done, Davis said it was not unusual to find people working as long as it takes to do what they have to do. And it does not really matter what they are wearing.

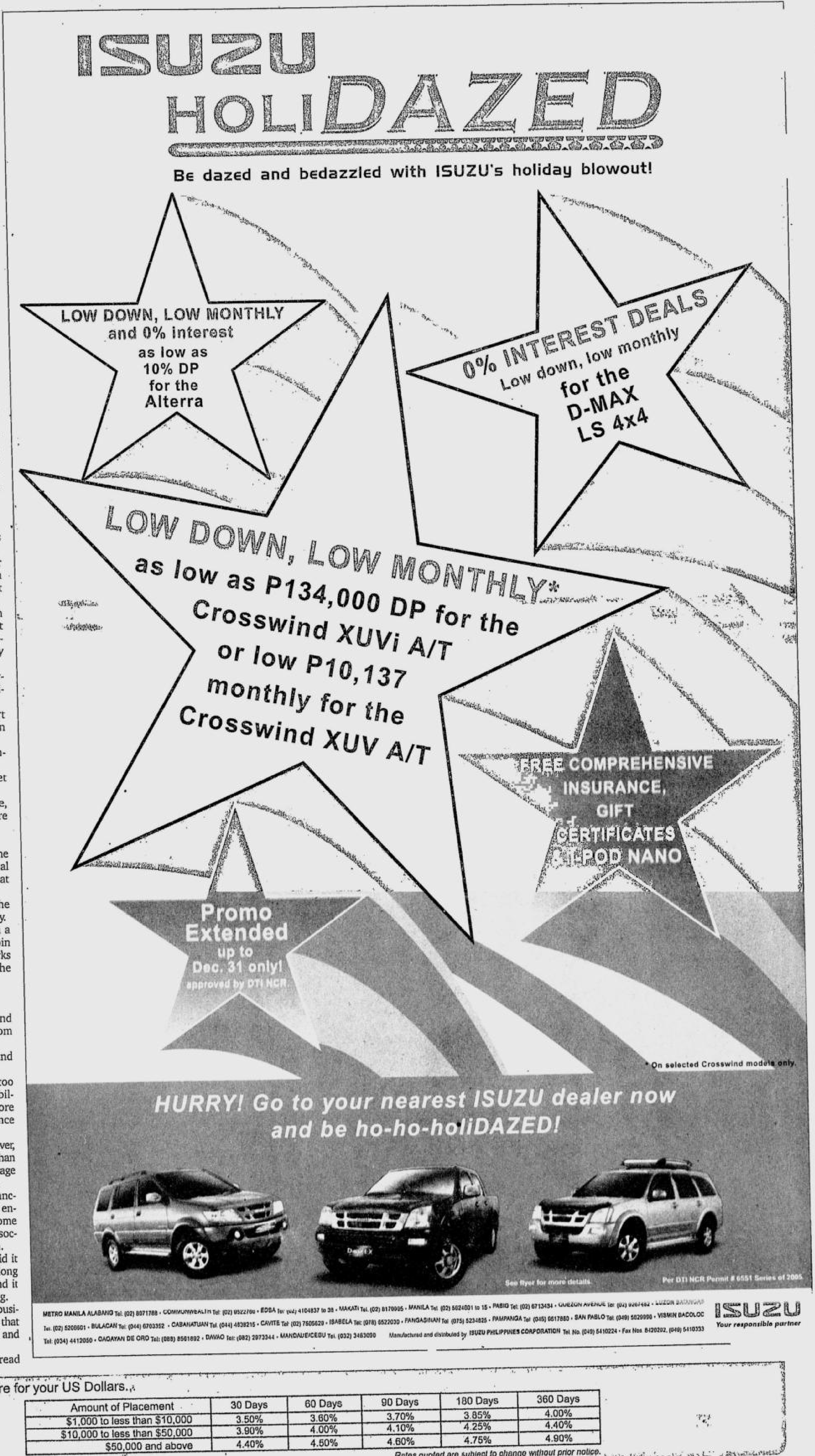
Davis said SAS continues to do well in its business and the challenge today is to preserve that culture of openness and caring as it grows and expands across the globe.

SAS has about 4,000 employees spread across 393 offices including one in the Philippines.

"The question is, how do you transplant a culture that has worked into the different countries?" he said.

It is still a work in progress but one way that SAS has been doing it is by stressing the core values of innovation, quality and customer focus across all offices.

Davis believes that as long as those values are in place, SAS will keep its winning streak.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'Make a child happy this Christmas' at SM

SM SHOPPERS ARE INVITED TO DO their share and "Make a Child Happy this Christmas' in the Holiday charity campaign, which is now ongoing at all SM Supermalls until Jan. 2.

A joint project with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Ronald McDonald House of Charities, the project aims to bring cheers to less fortunate children this Christmas. Other partners include Toy Kingdom and Toy World, with the Manila Broadcasting Company (DZRH, Love Radio and YES FM) and DZAS as media partners.

One can also "Share a Toy" and share joys at the "Make a Child Happy this Christmas" booth at SM Supermalls. One can donate new toys bought at the booth or donate old toys. Each donation entitles one to a cash coupon from Toy Kingdom.

Over the past eight years, SM Foundation's "Share a Toy" project has collected over 37,602 toys, which have been distributed to sick children in government hospitals as well as kids from charitable institutions.

This year, less fortunate children will be treated to a party of fun, games, surprises and gift-giving in a series of mall visits at SM. The first one was held recently at SM City San Lazaro, wherein 100 kids from the Gregoria de Jesus and P. Burgos Elementary Schools enjoyed a day of fun and games from SM Foundation. These included parlor games, exciting prizes, as well as dance and magic performances by Ronald McDonald and his friends Birdie, Hamburglar, and Grimace. Storyland's well-loved mascots Ellie the Elephant and Lionel the King also thrilled the kids with their version of the Pinoy Big Brother Dance.

Other mall visits are scheduled on Dec. 12 at SM City Manila, Dec. 20 at SM Megamall, Dec. 21 at SM City Sucat, Dec. 23 at SM City Sta. Mesa, Dec. 27 at SM City Fairview, and Dec. 28 at SM City North-Edsa.

SM's provincial malls will also play host to less fortunate kids: Dec. 13 at SM City Baguio, Dec. 19 at SM City Dasmarinas, Dec. 19 at SM City Marilao, Dec. 22 at SM City Valenzuela, and Dec. 28 at SM City Bacoor.

In the Vizmin area, these will take place on Dec. 26 at SM City Cagayan de Oro and Dec. 8 at SM City Davao.

TALLEST BUILDING IN MAKATI SOON TO RISE

Marking a new beginning for The Residences at Greenbelt, Ayala Land president Jim Ayala (2nd from left), assisted by Ayala Land assistant vice-president Kate Ilagan, vice-president Emilio Tumbocon, architect Ted Narciso of GF & Partners, Ayala Land senior vice-president Angela Lacson and assistant vice-president Ruel Bautista, breaks ground to commence the construction of the San Lorenzo Tower, soon to be the tallest building in Makati.

'Pharmacoeconomic' glimepiride for diabetes launched

PEOPLE WITH DIABETES WILL NOW have better access to a medicine that would help lower their blood sugar and reduce the risk of complications brought about by the condition.

Therapharma, a division of United Laboratories, recently launched its brand of glimepiride, an oral medicine belonging to a class of blood sugar-lowering drugs called sulfonylurea. Glimepiride is used in type II diabetes, the most common type of diabetes.

Glimepiride lowers blood sugar level by stimulating insulin production after meals, when blood sugar concentration is highest, and controls blood glucose throughout the day. More specifically, it lowers the glycosylated hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c), minor component of hemoglobin to which glucose (sugar) is bound.

HbA1c, obtained by a laboratory test, is a useful indicator of how well the blood glucose level has been controlled in the few months, and may be used to monitor the effects of diet, exercise, and drug therapy on blood glucose in diabetic patients.

Studies have shown that the complications of diabetes can be delayed or prevented if the HbA1c level can be kept close to 7 percent.

Dr. Ruby Go, former president of the Philippine Diabetes Association and Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism, said, "Studies have shown that patients who are using glimepiride 4mg or lower were able to hold the HbA1c by as much as 2.4 percent." Based on the UK Prospective Diabetes Study (UKPDS), a one-percent reduction in the A1c will translate into a 40-percent risk reduction in complications such as eye, kidney and nerve problems.

In addition, glimepiride does not accumulate in the body and affect kidney function. It has a prolonged duration and taken only once daily.

"We at Therapharma take it as a social and moral responsibility to equip diabetics with the armament that they need to face their personal war against this potentially crippling condition," said John Dumpit, general manager of the company known for making available phamarcoeconomic medicines, products that are affordable, safe and effective.

The 1, 2 and 3mg tablets of Therapharma's glimepiride are more affordable at P12, P15 and P20, respectively, compared to other anti-diabetes drugs.

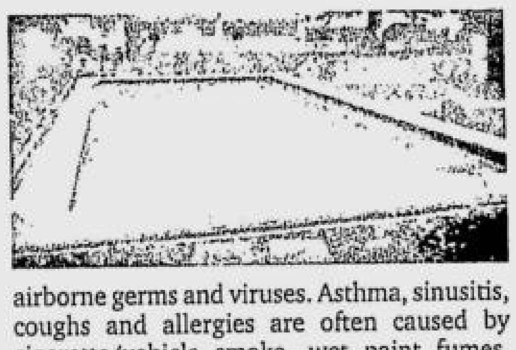
Glimepiride is a prescription medicine and available only with a physician's advice.

FIRST LIFE VISITS GOODWIN AGENCY OF NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL

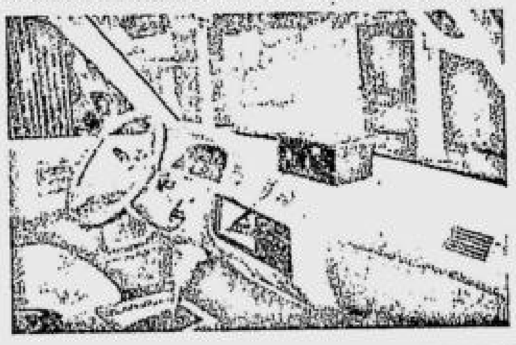
First Life president and CEO Peter Coyiuto, CLU (2nd from left) heads the visit to the Goodwin agency of Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, ranked by Fortune Magazine for the 18th time as America's most admired company in the financial services industry. With general agent William Goodwin, CLU, ChFC (4th from left) are, from left, First Life top producers Josie Gotohio, LUTCF, Lourdes Yao, LUTCF, Lorna Lao, Ester Sy, LUTCF, and Teresita Perez, LUTCF. The company's top agency leaders also attended the 2005 General Agents and Managers Association (Gama) LAMP Annual Convention in March in Atlanta, Georgia.

New treatments for water, air

GONE ARE THE DAYS of the environmentally hazardous chlorinated swimming pools. Don't you wish you can swim in water safe enough for you to drink? Electromex Ozonators are built for swimming pools and overhead water tanks of buildings and subdivisions, guaranteeing bacteria and chemical-free water treatments. Ozone kills all types of bacteria, thus doing away with cancer-causing corrosive chemicals such as chlorine and alcohol. The Electromex heavy-duty water treatment ozonators kill fungus and algae, making your water sparkling clean and safe enough for your kids to drink.



Indoor pollution, on the other hand, is now considered a silent killer. Most air-conditioned cars and rooms don't have a way to kill airborne germs and viruses. Asthma, sinusitis, coughs and allergies are often caused by cigarette/vehicle smoke, wet paint fumes, carbon monoxide, septic odors, mildew, fungus, and spoiled food. The common practice of removing these germs and odors has been by the use of toxic chemical sprays such as alcohol, chlorine, and synthetic fragrances (which merely masks odors). Electromex Air Ozonators removes all types of airborne germs and foul odor without the use of toxic chemicals and false fragrances. Ozone kills germs, molds, fungus and bacteria instantly. The Electromex Air Ozonator is cost-effective and more superior than any generic imported ozonizer, ionizer and water-filled air purifiers in the market. For more details about Electromex products, call 531-6782 or 535-9069 or visit www.electromexinc.com.



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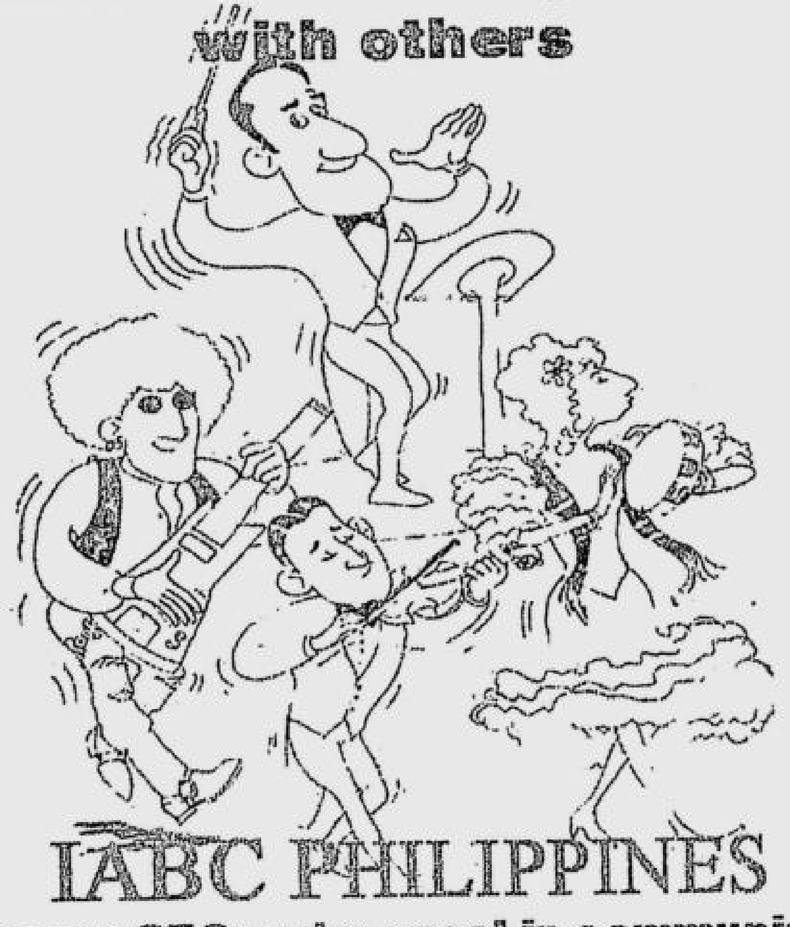

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ABC, SBN SIGN MOA FOR CEBU, BACOLOD BROADCAST

The Associated Broadcasting Co (ABC), the country's third largest television network, has signed a memorandum of agreement with Southern Broadcasting Network (SBN) forging a strategic alliance that will allow ABC to broadcast its entire programming over SBN's VHF stations in Cebu and Bacolod starting this November. ABC currently operates UHF stations in these places. Signing the agreement are (from left), for ABC, VP-legal lawyer Christine C. Ona and EVP/COO Reggie D. Galura, and for SBN, president and COO Teofilo A. Henson and vice president Linnie Mayoralgo-Dinopol.

Bits Clips

Finex World Congress golf

AS PART OF THE FINANCIAL Executives Institute of the Philippines' (Finex) celebration of the 2005. World Congress of Financial Executives from Dec. 4 to 7, the Finex sports and recreation committee is inviting all golf enthusiasts to join the 2005 World Congress Golf Tournament to be held on Dec. 7, Wednesday, at the Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club, Cabuyao, Laguna. Tee-off time is 10 a.m., using a System 36 format, with A, B, C, D, ladies and guests classes. For more details, please call the Finex secretariat at 811-4188. Major sponsors of the event are Globe Solutions and Globe Quest, Philippine Airlines, Eastern Petroleum Corp, United Laboratories, Plantersbank, SeaOil, Philips, Splash Corp, Petrolino, Sharp, ICAP, UCPB, Total Petroleum, Oilink, Unioil, MasterCard, San Miguel Corp, and Microsoft Corp.

Managing funds well

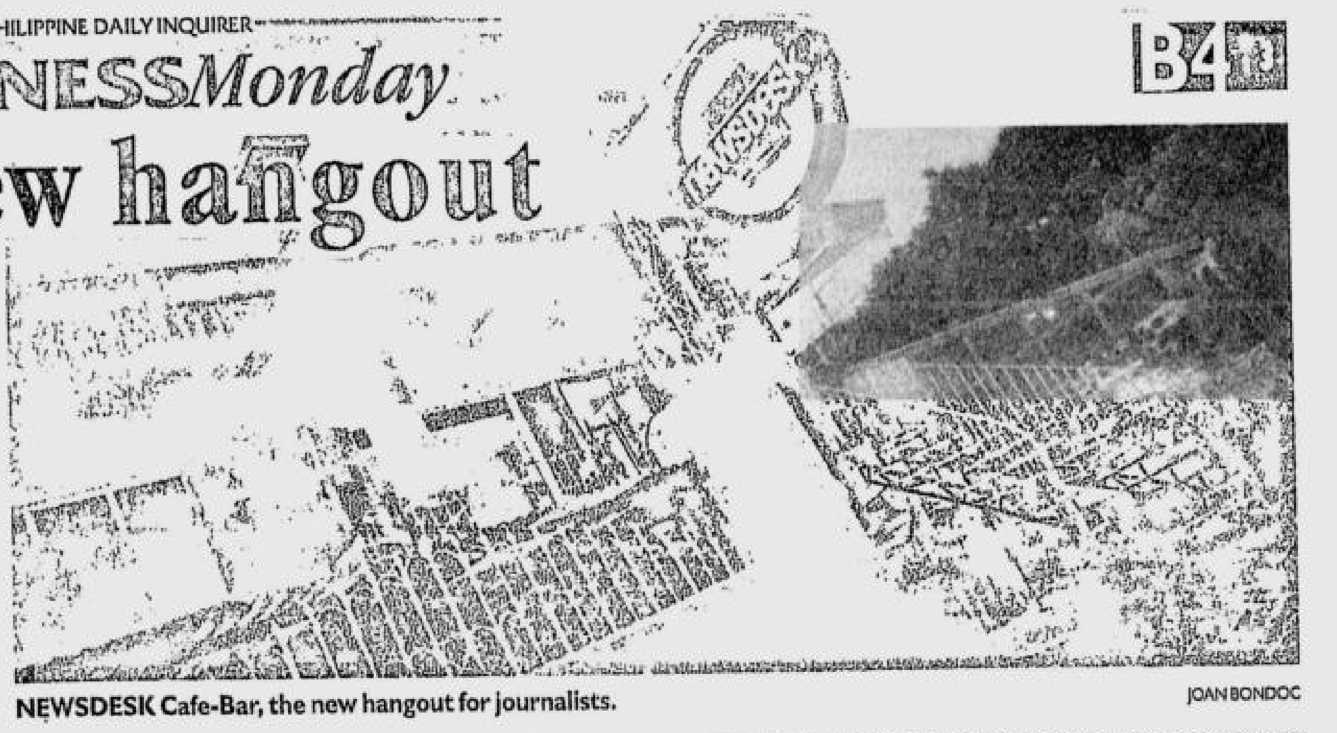
"THE MANAGER'S GUIDE to Financial Decision-Making", a one-day course presented by Venture for Fund Raising, will be held Dec. 9 at the Discovery Suites, ADB Avenue, Pasig City. This is for non-profit managers, executive directors, and non-accounting staff that want to understand financial statements and budgets, identify financial problem areas, and come up with measures to address these. The course comes right after the "Basic Course on Fund Raising", from Dec. 6 to 8. Call Vanessa Abella for more information about both courses at 634-8889 to 90.

TeamAsia seminars

TEAMASIA FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT Monette Iturralde-Hamlin will conduct back-to-back seminars on business writing and handling difficult people Dec. 6 and 7 at the Exportbank Plaza, Makati. The seminar, "Communicating with Impact: Business Writing" will provide practical tips, on-the-spot mentoring and interactive discussions that identify and address particular writing challenges. She will also deliver her "Handling Difficult People" seminar on Dec. 7, which aims to help individuals cope with difficult personalities in the workplace and everyday life - and enable them to bring out the best in people even at their worst. TeamAsia is a strategic marketing communications firm specializing in public relations, event management and direct marketing. For more information, call 757-3500.

Journalists flock to new hangout

By Leti Boniol



NEWSDESK Cafe-Bar, the new hangout for journalists.

JOAN BONDOC

A DEARTH OF WATERING HOLES FOR journalists and more depressing times have driven news people into looking for more affordable places to shake off whatever bad news they have imbibed during their coverage.

This is why a group of journalists banded together early this year to provide what they themselves have been looking for—a hangout where they could listen to music for tired souls and drinks and food to go with conversations with fellow journalists and friends.

For former Manila Times reporter Ruben Manahan, opening a bar for media practitioners is a response to what his TV cameramen friends have been egging him to do—open a decent and relaxing place, unlike the one they have been frequenting somewhere in Timog Avenue, that has become some kind of wild place invaded by non-journalists.

"It is a niche market," Manahan said, because journalists want to be at home with kindred souls after a hard day's grind. "They want to have a place where they could get a sort of a therapy, discussing their day's work, comparing notes and then making a closure before going home, so that the next day, they begin work again, refreshed," he explained.

And so last July 15, about a hundred journalists from the country's leading print, radio, TV and online media outfits gathered for a night of fun during the launch of NewsDesk Cafe Bar at No. 8 Scout Madriñan corner Scout Tobias Streets in Quezon City. The bar touts itself as the working journalists' coffee shop, bar and grill.

Since then, newspersons have been flocking to the place that is open Mondays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to past 12 midnight.

Except on Sept. 5 when only two of their tables were occupied because most of the journalists congregated at the House of Representatives to cover the impeachment vote against President Macapagal-Arroyo, NewsDesk has been having a good share of the media clientele, according to Manahan, who co-owns the bar with online journalist John Concepcion, graphic artist Chrysler John de Guzman and former editorial assistant Ferdie Mendoza.

Addy Parreño, production administration at the Public Affairs Unit of television network GMA 7 finds the place "a haven for budding media practitioners." He says he goes to the bar at least twice a week to take his dinner and chat with friends and belt out middle-of-the-road songs with piano accompaniment.

Manahan said NewsDesk is also the place-to-be for press conferences, media events and social functions. Mostly nongovernment organizations take advantage of the free use of the facilities and the affordable food. Grilled *bangus* (milkfish), for example, can be had for P100 apiece and pork or chicken barbecue at P15 a stick. Some journalists have also held their birthday bashes, reunions and production meetings in the bar's second floor that has an open balcony.

When the INQUIRER visited the place recently, a cooking-with-herbs demonstration was being held by the women's group Banahaw. Its executive director, Daphne Roxas, who happened to celebrate her birthday that day, whipped up a seafood fare with veggies that was partaken by about 50 of her women guests that evening.

Recently, three Saturdays of November were devoted to poetry reading sessions in celebration of the 60th birthday of poet, screenwriter, editor Pete Lacaba. Various artists and journalists like Armida Siguion-Reyna, Albert Martinez, Gina Alajar and Rey Bagatsing read Lacaba's poems.

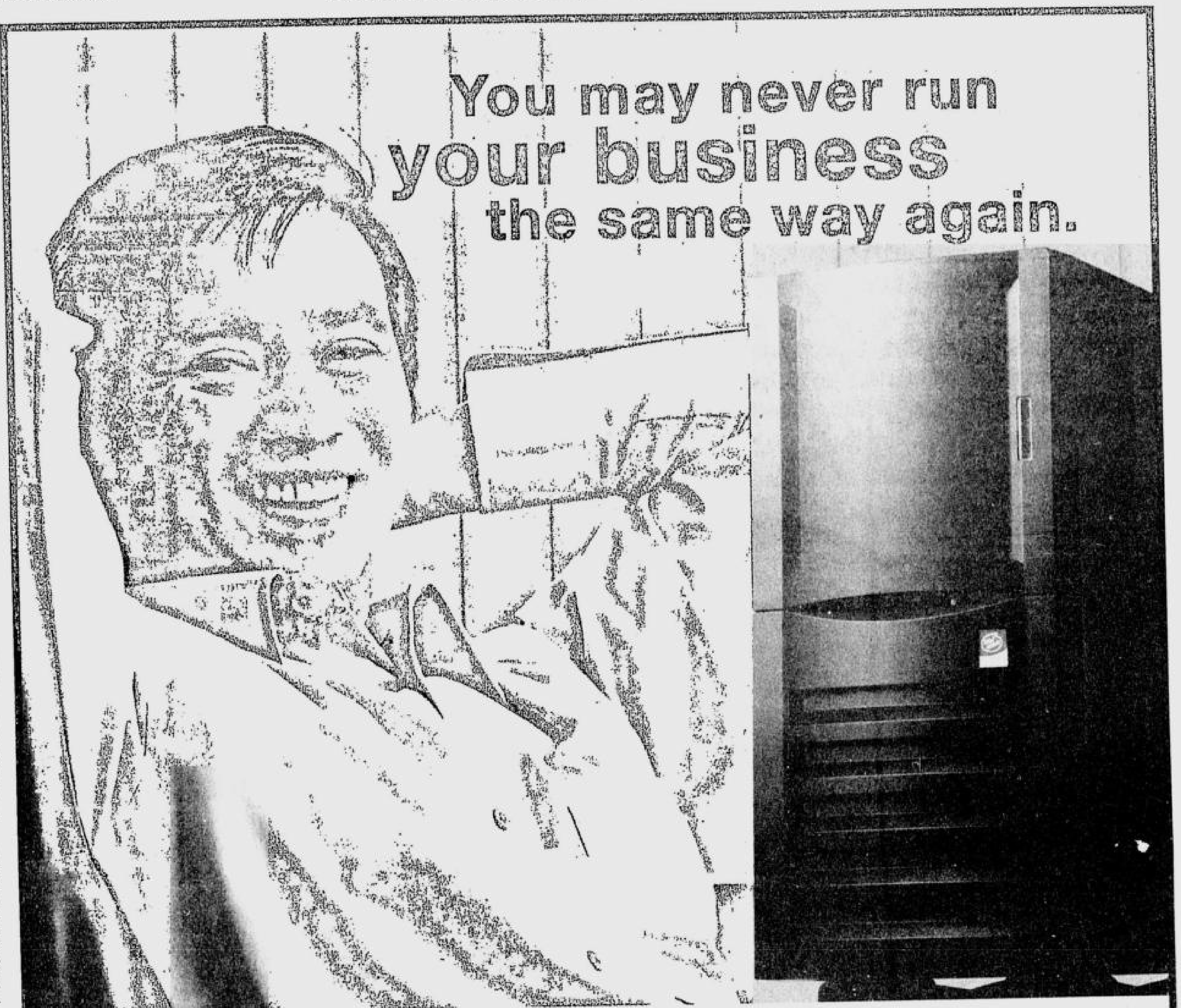
"Our usual problem is the lack of chairs and tables," says co-owner Mendoza. One has to guard one's space, especially during the usually crowded evenings of Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Manahan said they could afford to bring down the cost of food and drinks since they have really taken the time to look for suppliers that give them lower than the prices given to other outlets. This is why it took then some time to open the bar. He said they have been scouting around for better deals since January, when they first thought of venturing into the cafe-bar.

To maximize the place during daytime, they are making available five computer units with Internet connection so journalists could work, edit and send their stories from there.

Books and journalism publications are also available for sale courtesy of Datelines, another bookshop owned by journalist Jose Torres Jr.

(Those who want to schedule events or press conferences at NewsDesk may call 373965 or fax at 376-3966)



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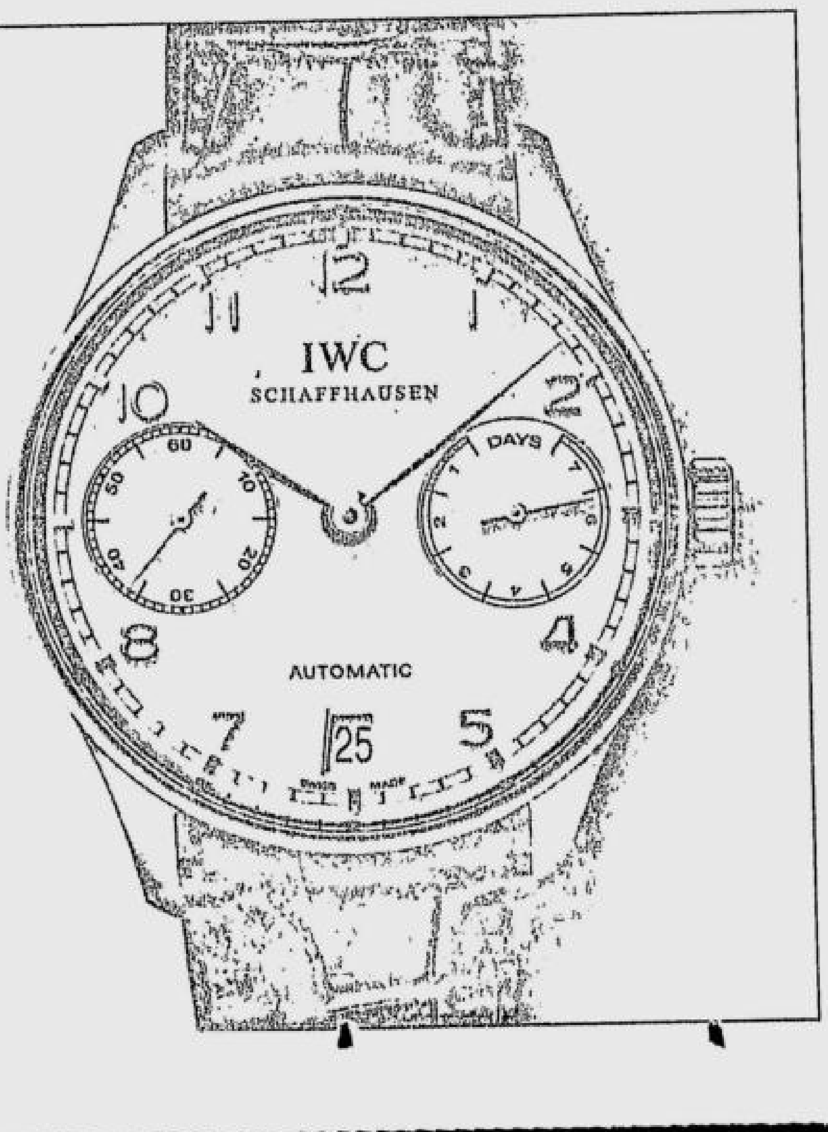

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HYUNDAI Embarks On Its Highly Anticipated Motorshow

Discover a new breed of breakthrough diesel-fueled automobiles and luxury vehicles in the country today.

The future of motoring is here today as Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. proudly brings to you its first and most prestigious motorshow to date, the Hyundai **Drive Your Way with Hyundai Motorshow '05.**

Get your gears ready to go full throttle with a wide array of lifestyle vehicles that will capture your senses. Witness the unveiling of some of the automotive industry's most ingenious creations. Learn more about the latest issues in automobile features, designs, trends and engine technology, like the revolutionary CRDi or Common Rail Direct Injection diesel engine. Discover how much value you can get from its revolutionary diesel ingenuity.

In a celebration of beauty, brawn, power and style in a setting like none other of its magnitude, Hyundai pulls off all the stops in what is yet to be their biggest event in the country. The theme for the entire motorshow revolves around the balanced engineering that went into every Hyundai vehicle, and their commitment to stay true to their vision of creating innovative solutions for the motoring public. It is a fusion of advanced technologies for superb driving convenience and fuel efficiency with less environmentally hazardous engine emissions. In effect, it is a spectacle not to be missed and a celebration of the achievements of man and machine working together for a brighter future.

Having fulfilled its promise of always being there for the customer, as fostered in its previous battle cry, "Always There For You", Hyundai is now embarking on a bigger, bolder journey with its new rallying call, "Drive Your Way". Capturing the spirit of Hyundai as a refined and confident automobile brand, "Drive Your Way" is about the new generation of customer who knows what he wants and how to get it; who recognizes his individuality and celebrates his uniqueness. "Drive Your Way" is about providing this customer the freedom he demands to become the person he is meant to be. Ultimately, it is about Hyundai bringing the customer back to himself. Trailing this renewed vision, HARI underscores focus on the evolved mindset of customers in order to push Hyundai far into their consciousness. By knowing the penchant of its target market, HARI is able to build a strong brand equity, which is now gradually being recognized by the Philippine automotive industry.

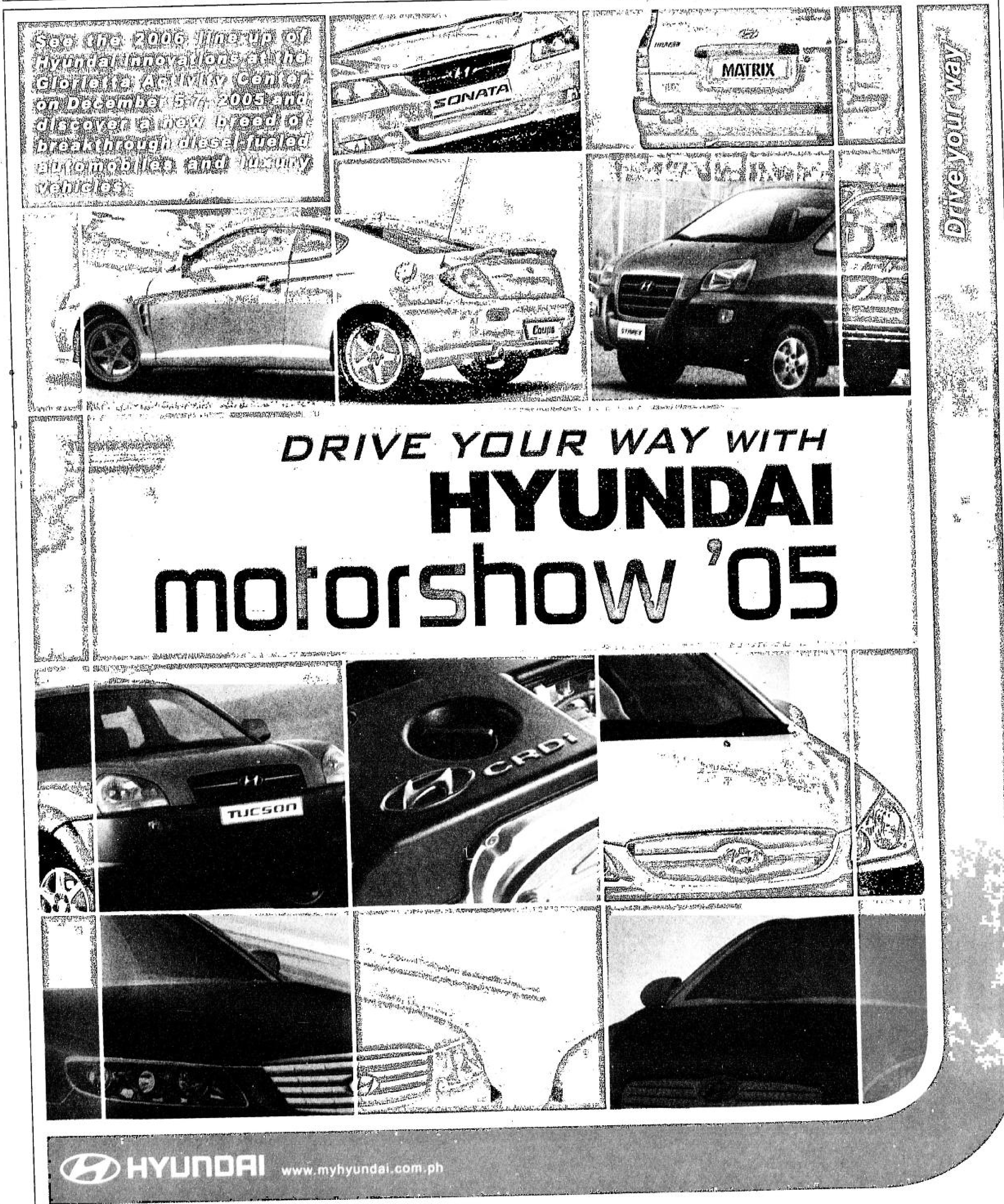
Here are some of the CRDi-powered models to look forward to at the **Drive Your Way with Hyundai Motorshow** '05. The Starex GRX CRDi, a family favorite now made even better as it becomes the first family van that uses CRDi engine technology. Tucson 4x4, the first 4-wheel drive SUV with a CRDi technology infused engine. There is the Accent, the first CRDi sedan in the country-- a combination of engine efficiency and luxurious styling. The Matrix CRDi, proven time and time again to be a fuel-efficient MPV among Hyundai's Most Practical Vehicle line. Even the ever lovable Getz now sports the CRDi, making it the coolest hot hatch with the hottest engine that gives more mileage and power.

An engine technology making waves across Europe, CRDi, using Common Rail technology improves power and performance, lessens engine wear and tear along with minimizing engine noise, vibration and harmful emissions while providing optimum diesel fuel-efficiency, an ingenious innovation that was first brought to the country at an affordable price by Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc.

Other Hyundai models to be showcased at the motorshow are the Sonata, Hyundai's current premier luxury sedan, the Azera, an executive sedan soon to make waves in 2006 with commanding distinction, and the sporty 2006 Coupe, poised and raring for fast-paced action, both styled for imposing form and powerful engine that performs in any weather condition.

Come and find the Hyundai vehicle that best suits your lifestyle and personality at the **Drive Your Way with Hyundai Motorshow '05**. There's a perfect Hyundai vehicle just waiting for you to bring home and enjoy. Drive your way with Hyundai today. Drop by at the Glorietta Activity Center on December 5 to 7, 2005.

-ADV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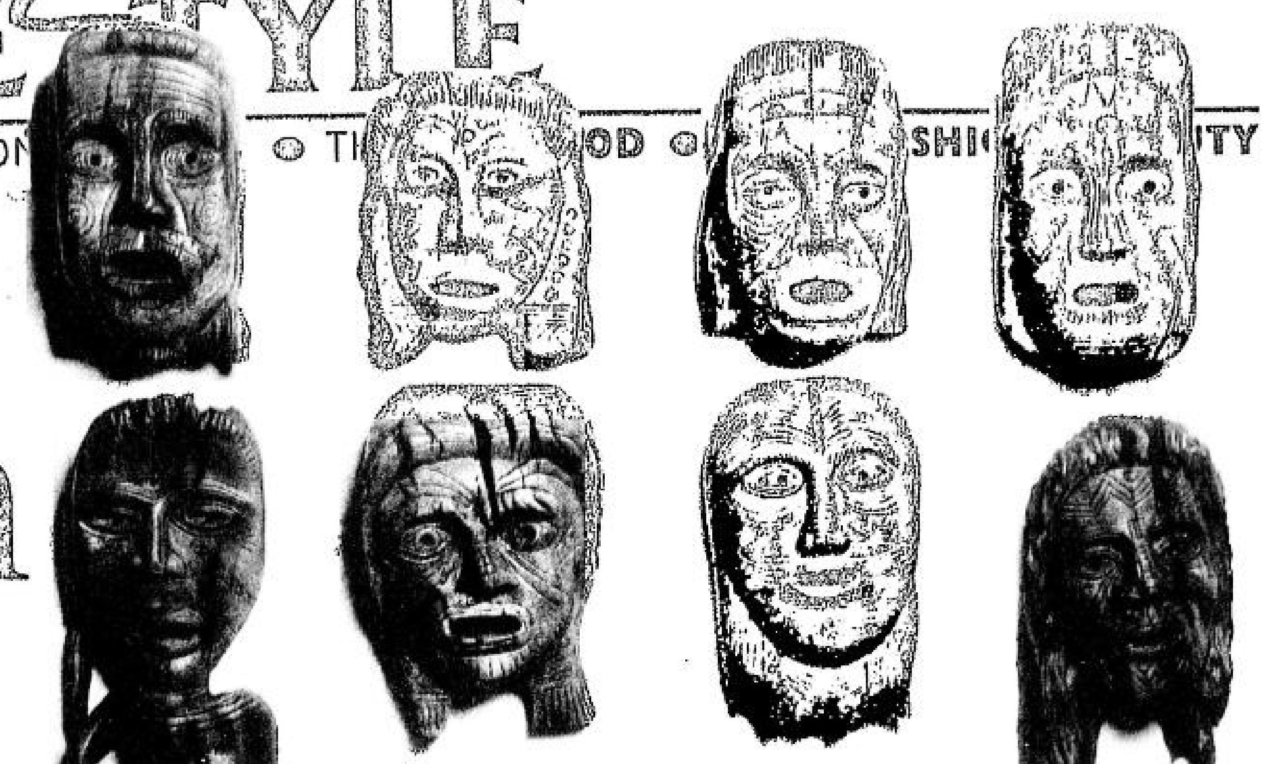
"IGUANA"

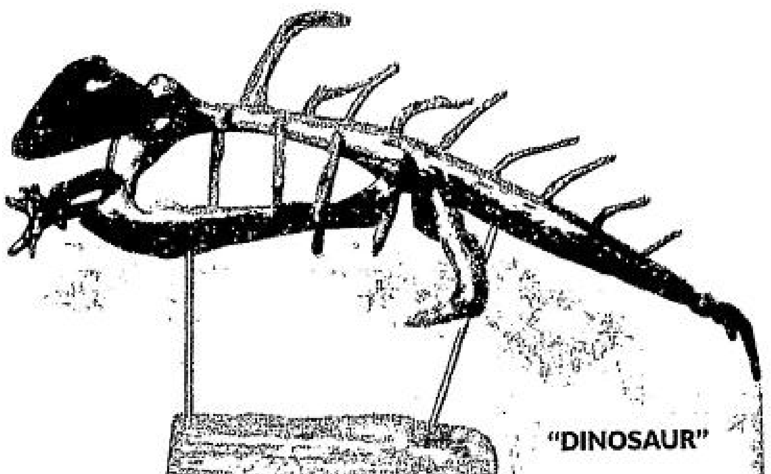
Community art calms the storm



"MASKS," by Organization of Banglos Sculptors

"PARU-PARO"

A year after the deluge, Rey Paz Contreras and other wood artists make peace with Nature's fury and man's shortsightedness



"DINOSAUR"

By Constantino C. Tejero

WHEN FOUR TYPHOONS successively struck the country late last year, one of the hardest hit was Barangay Banglos in General Nakar town at Quezon province. With turbulent waters and no land to till, the community of fishermen and farmers was reduced to making charcoal out of the logs flooded down from the Sierra Madre.

When Gawad Kalinga called for private corporations to help in the rehabilitation of depressed communities devastated by the typhoons, Smart Communications Inc. responded with Project Nakar. For its livelihood program, Smart asked wood artist Rey Paz Contreras and his team of Daambakal Sculptors to give a workshop on driftwood art to Banglos residents.

In one interview, Contreras related how the first time he visited the place he was "overwhelmed by the abundance of logs scattered everywhere. It was absolutely a wood sculptor's delight."

Eight Daambakal members lived on site to give a 10-day basic training to the first batch of 22 men, women and children. In less than five days, art pieces were produced.

The residents proved to be earnest workers and enthusiastic artisans. With an abundance of material to work with, they had all the opportunities to polish and master their craft.

"Hindi sila nanghihinayang sa kahoy," says Contreras. *"Gawa lang nang gawa. Kung magkamali, e, di gawa uli."*

Thus was formed the Organization of Banglos Sculptors, composed of some 20 residents and their families.

Contreras marvels at their work ethic and system: "*Sa atin* collective work, *sa kanila* normal *lang*. Very, very fluid *ang pagtrabaho nila*. Very, very normal *lang na magtrabaho sila* as a group. *Tulong-tulong sila, nagsi*-share. Limited *nga lang ang* power tools *nila*."

Charm and humor

In May, two months after they started, they held their first show in Westin Philippine Plaza. Some of those exhibited were pieces made just after 10 days of basic training.

Now they just held the first major exhibition of their output, and in the Cultural Center of the Philippines, no less. "Banglos, From Tragedy to Creativity," 30 pieces in hardwood, was recently presented by Smart Communications at Pasilyo Carlos V. Francisco (Little Theater Lobby Wall) of the CCP, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

The sculptural pieces (including a few by Contreras and the Daambakal Sculptors) range from ornamentals to table, from a lampshade with bird mobiles to a six-seater bench. Here dead wood takes on the living forms of fowls and lizards, marine life from fish to mollusk to crustacean, Mother and Child, human torso, masks.

Each piece demonstrates how keenly observant these people are. The pisciforms, for instance, are specific not just with the species (*pla-pla, malasugi, danggit, alguron, lupo,* barracuda) but also with their movements. They may be simplified forms but well-detailed up to the caudal and dorsal fins. These

COMMUNITY/ C2

LYN CHING-PASCUAL:

"I'm down to a *sexy size 4* and have never been happier!"

A year after childbirth and after only two months of regular treatments at Marie France, TV host Lyn Ching Pascual is at her slimmest, healthiest, one of the happiest periods of her life.

Why wouldn't she be? According to Lyn, she's been fat all her life. "I was an obese child. I weighed 140 lbs when I was only 10 years old. It was so bad it got to a point that my skin gave up on me. I had stretch marks particularly on the legs – at 10 years old! Imagine that!" For a kid, that was really a physical and emotional toll. She says she's been bullied, teased, and she could not engage in sports, which made it even harder for her to lose weight.

When she got older, Lyn went through different weight-loss methods. "Yo-yo dieting...gym (I'd workout religiously for months, then stop)...badminton (I'd play everyday, lose weight, and then stop)...it even got to a point when I became bulimic," confesses Lyn. "And I was on the verge of anorexia because I already refused to eat. I was at my thinnest then: 111 lbs. But I looked sick. I looked really, really sick: dry skin...I wasn't moving too much because I was always tired...I can't breathe well...I had a lot of problems at that time. Plus, I really love eating food! That's why it's so hard for me to go on a diet."

That's why she couldn't be happier when she enrolled at Marie France. "I lost a lot of weight even if I still overeat. I actually have a sweet tooth, so I eat 2 bags of caramel popcorn everyday – and I never miss a day. I'm like, Marie France is making sure that I get thin anyway, so I really don't watch what I eat. So I'm really surprised with the result of my Marie France treatments. And I'm very happy because I can still eat whatever I want!"

She adds, "Their treatments are very easy, very fast, very safe, and very convenient for me. After the show *(Unang Hirit)*, which ends at around 8:30-8:45 a.m., I go straight to Marie France. They open early so there's really no problem regarding schedule. It's very convenient because whatever I wear when I arrive, I can also wear when I leave. I don't have to take a bath or even take some time to rest after a really, really heavy workout. There's no workout. It's really convenient for nursing mothers like me because I can immediately hold my baby when I get home (which is only about 10 minutes from the center) since I'm not tired. At Marie France, you just lie down and everyone else has to work for you. Where can you get that kind of deal? Literally, you just lie down and you lose weight. What more can I ask for!"

Indeed, Lyn is a picture of true satisfaction. With a figure that has transformed from, according to her, "a huge American size 10" to "a sexy size 4"...who wouldn't be? "Now I can wear sexy clothes!" she exclaims. "It feels good to know that you can really lose weight if you want to.".

Now everybody's asking how she did it. "Everyday I get compliments. People from the audience, people from the show, even a close friend of mine says, 'I have never seen you this thin before.' That's because before, when I used to workout a lot, I lost weight but I looked bulky. I lost on pounds but not on inches. Now I lose both inches and pounds. And whenever people ask how I did it, I always tell them – Marie France! Don't do anything, just Marie France. Just lie down at Marie France!"

With her new, slimmer Marie France body, she's more active, feels healthier, and looks much younger even with a 1-year old daughter in tow. What makes her really happy, of course, are the compliments her husband showers her everyday. "He says, 'My wife is so sexy.' Next to 'I love you', that for me is the best thing I hear him say."

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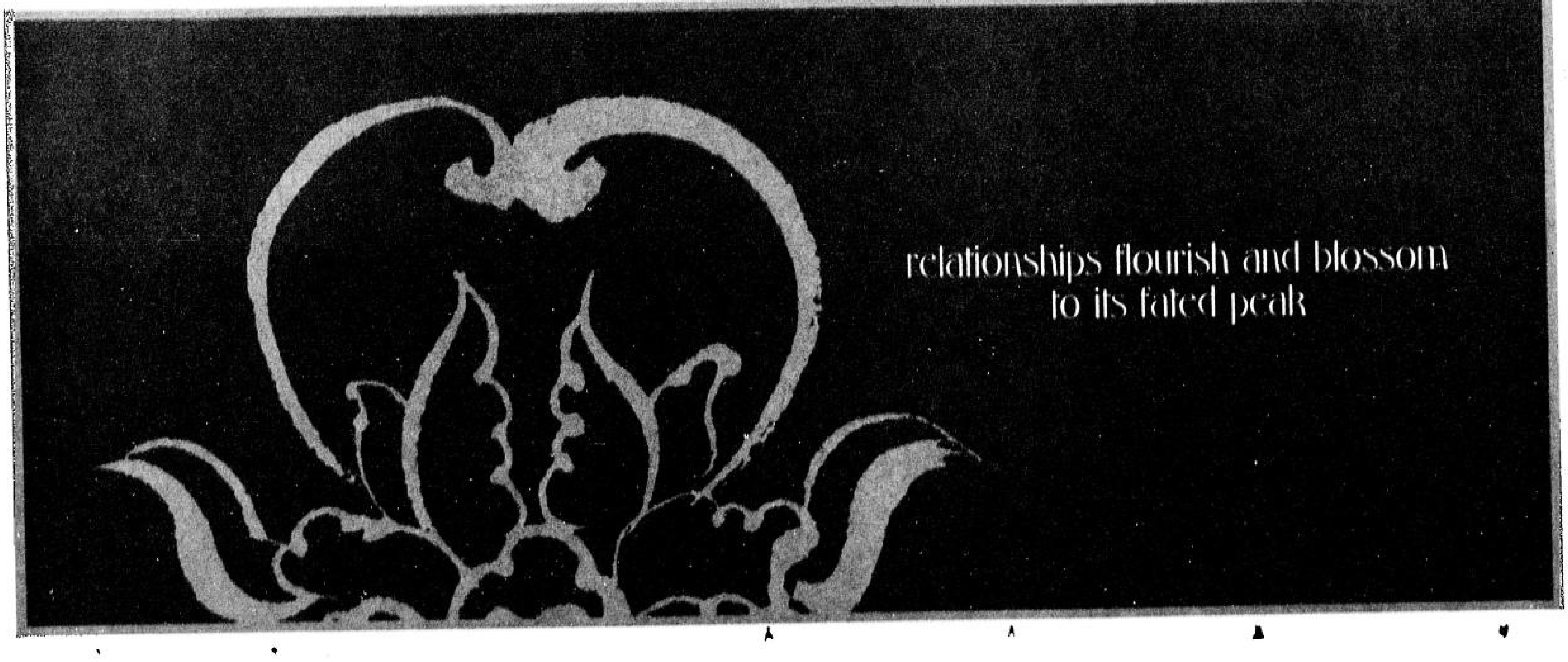
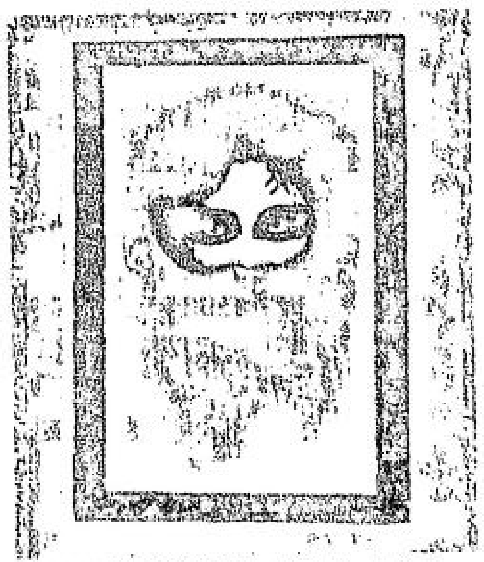
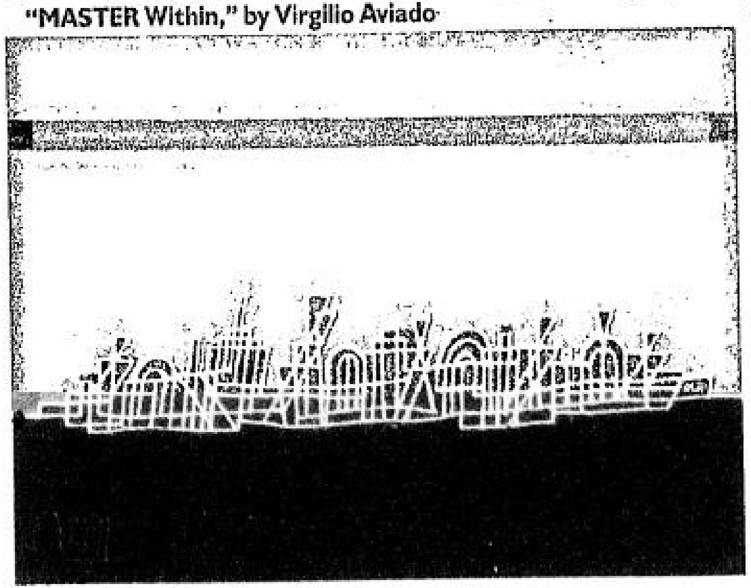


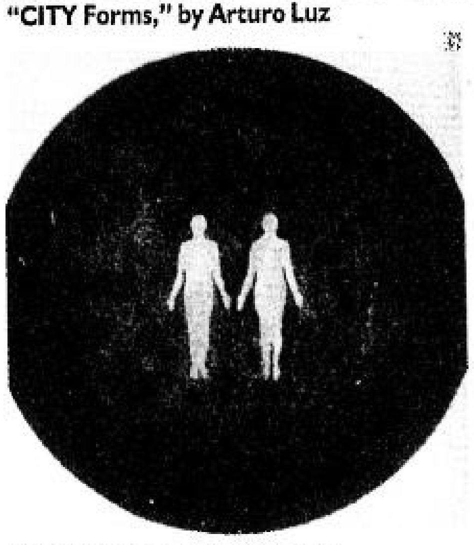
West holds year-end group show



"MASTER Within," by Virgilio Aviado



"CITY Forms," by Arturo Luz



"UNTITLED," by Wire Tuazon

FOR THE SECOND YEAR, WEST Gallery has pooled together an impressive list of artists to participate in its 12" X 9" year-ending group show. It will be on view simultaneously at the West Gallery on West Avenue (starting Dec. 6) and at SM Megamall (starting Dec. 8). The show runs until Dec. 31.

Participating artists include: Ronald Achacoso, Rolly Acuña, Gus Albor, Joven Alcala, Juan Alcazaren, Nunelucio Alvarado, Bert Antonio, Alfredo Juan Aquilizan, Virgilio Aviado, Felix Bacolor, Rowena Bancod-Gaborni, Andres Barrioquinto, Pablo Biglang-Awa, Lawrence Borsoto;

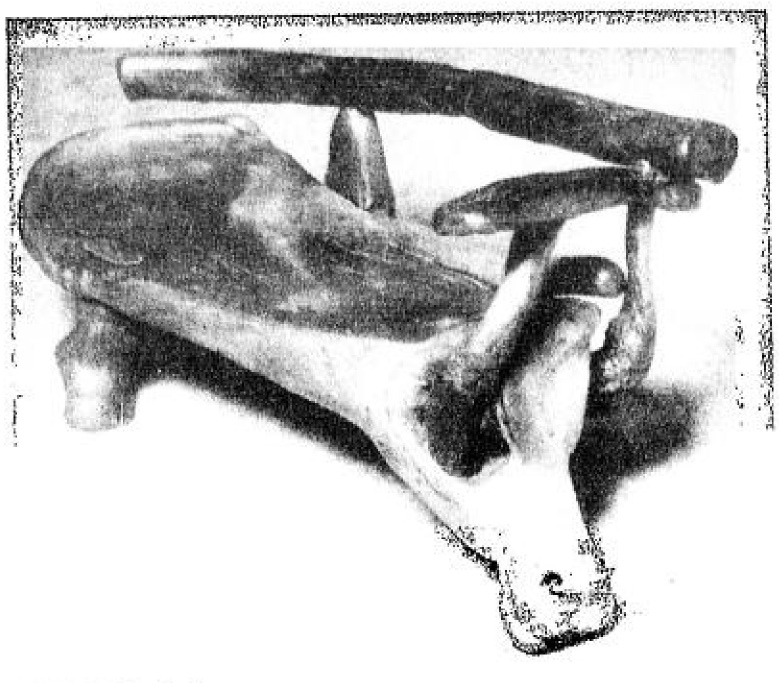
Annie Cabigting, Roberto Chabet, Dansoy Coquilla, Buds Convocar, Cobie Cruz, Chie Cruz, Aba Dalena, Joy Dayrit, R.M. de Leon, Patrick de Veyra, Alfredo Esquillo, Fernando Escora, Patty Eustaquio, Nona Garcia, Manny Garibay, Gregory Raymond Halili, Nilo Ilarde, Raul Isidro, Geraldine Javier;

Pete Jimenez, Erwin Leaño, Romeo Lee, Jojo Lofranco, Arturo Luz, Malang, Joy Mallari, Pep Manalang, Red Mansueto, Dindo Martinez, Lui Medina, Jet Melencio, Joel Mendez, Jason Moss, Ferdie Montemayor, Elaine Roberto-Navas, Maggie Obaña, Romulo Olazo, Jason Oliveria;

Marlene Ong, Jim Orencio, Bernardo Pacquing, Kelly Ramos-Palaganas, Anthony Palomo, Mikel Parial, Jet Pascua, Butch Payawal, Chitz Ramirez, Jucar Raquepo, Dan Raralio, Cid Reyes, Rosscapili, Ronaldo Ruiz, Christina Quisumbing, Juni Salvador, Popo San Pascual, Edgar Santiago, Jose John Santos, Jojo Serrano, Soler, Songcayawon;

Gerry Tan, Maria Taniguchi, Wire Tuazon, Lito Uyan, Trek Valdizno, Roma Valles, Lydia Velasco, Olan Ventura, Ronald Ventura, Cris Villanueva, Alvin Villaruel, Pamela Yan, Reggie Yuson and Eric Zamuco.

Call 4110336/4119221 (West Gallery, West Avenue) or 6341284 (West Gallery, SM Megamall).



CARABAO chair

"COUP of Fish"

"LABUYO"

Community art . . .

From page C1

are piscatory people, after all.

The pieces exude a simple charm, as "Mga Bibi" (group sculpture of long-legged, craning ducks); "Subo" (fish feeding its young); "Paru-paro" (butterfly with the gnarled part of the wood left untouched as wings, making it appear like a beast of burden); "Ostrich" (looking rather like a despondent vulture); "Labuyo" (like a peacock in fighting form).

And they have a homespun humor, as in the low pun of "Peking Duck" (a duck, what else?); "Air Fish" (shark shaped like an airplane); "Pagpula ng Tagak" (stooping crane in reddish wood); "Fish Bowl" (rudimentary bowl shaped like a goldfish); "Inahen" (mother chicken, okay?). These are simple folk, after all.

Simplicity embodied

Their inherent simplicity is embodied chiefly in their renderings of the Mother and Child, where form approaches abstraction. In some of these, the block of wood is simply hollowed, punctured and polished, as in the work of Barbara Hepworth.

To be sure, there are also complicated forms and complex compositions: "Iguana," "Bulabog," "Alupihang Dagat," "Pusit," "School of Fish," "Dinosaur," "Mutya ng Dagat," "Peasant Woman," "Karugtong ng Buhay," the so-called carabao chair, lampshade birds and the coffee-table set.

"MAG-INA"

All are of hardwoods (a certain species of *kamagong*, red and yellow *narra, molave*) in oil finish.

Contreras says he makes them use seasoned wood, those "10-20 years already dead in the mountain *bago makarating sa* lowland, *nakalubog sa tubig at kinukuha nila* during low tide." That's when the wood has lost its buoyancy and become quite compact.

For finish, Contreras makes them use a combination of spar and valspar varnish and linseed oil, which takes 24 hours to dry and so penetrates ¼ inch into even seasoned wood. When applied in two coatings on sun-dried wood, it imparts a dark antique effect.

The group has been exhibiting almost every month since May. From selling charcoal for P65 a sack, they are now selling art at P500-P7,000 apiece. And they can already finish an average ornamental in 3-4 days, or three bowls in one day.

"*Ang nakakatakot* if they're sidetracked by mainstream art," says the concerned mentor. "*Naghahanap pa sila kung saan ma*-categorize. They exhibited in Westin, which is not a legitimate art venue, and now they have exhibited at the CCP, which is very legitimate *naman. Hayaan na lang muna natin sila* as craftsmen."

Contreras estimates that Banglos has enough driftwood available to its sculptors for the next 20 years. Why, that's a whole generation of artists.

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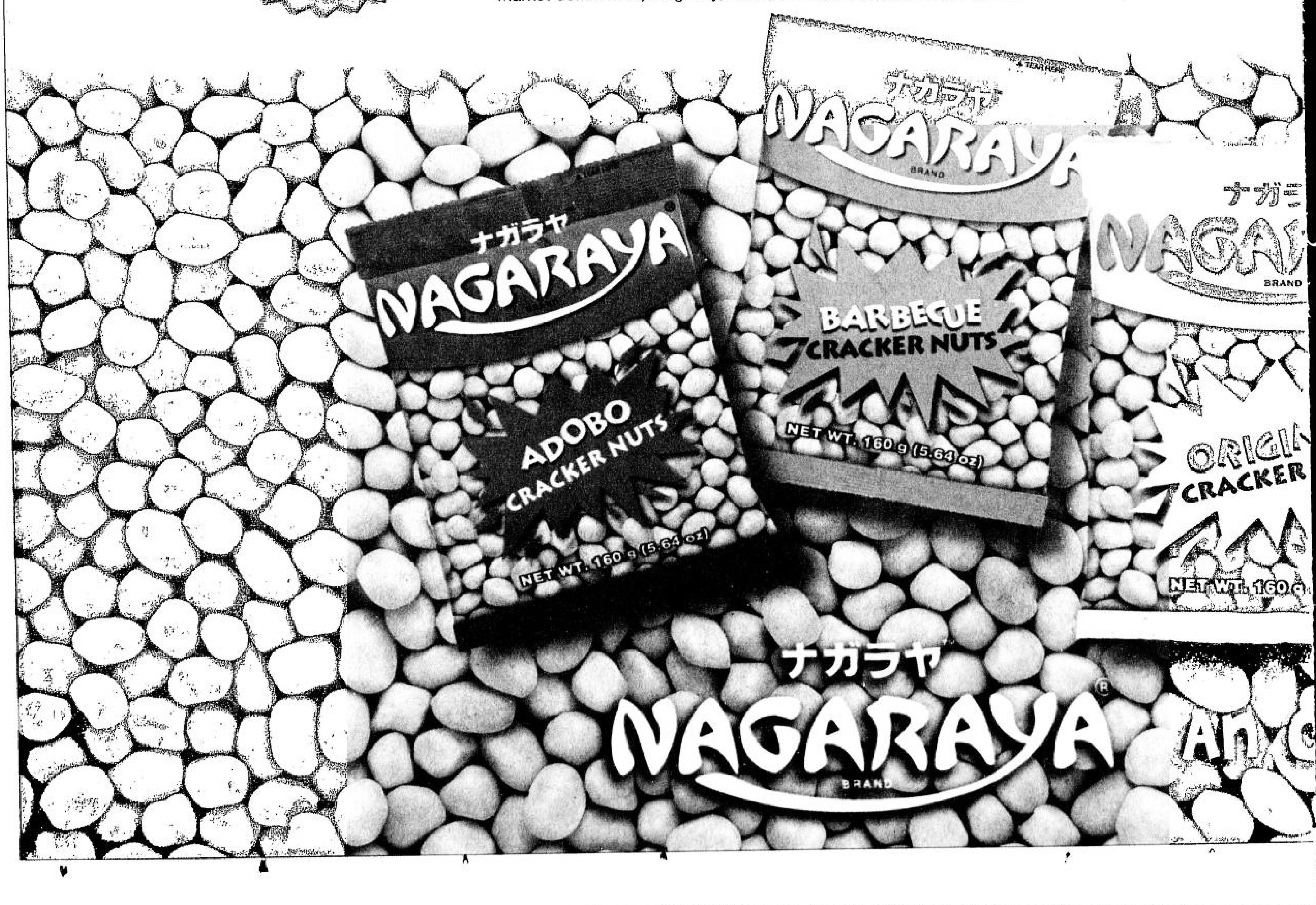


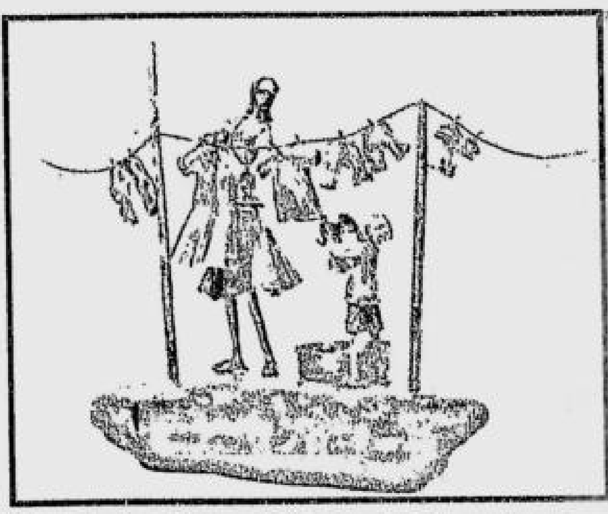
LE

Cacnio's joys of Pinoy life in brass

CHOICE EXPRESSION GALLERY presents Michael Cacnio's brass renditions of rural Filipino scenes.

From leisurely banca rides and basket-toting women in *baro't saya* to people lining up with their pails by a deep-well pump, Cacnio once again infuses his joie de vivre to common Filipino activities.

The show, "Signed with Distinction," opens on Dec. 9. Call 8990717 and 8990718.



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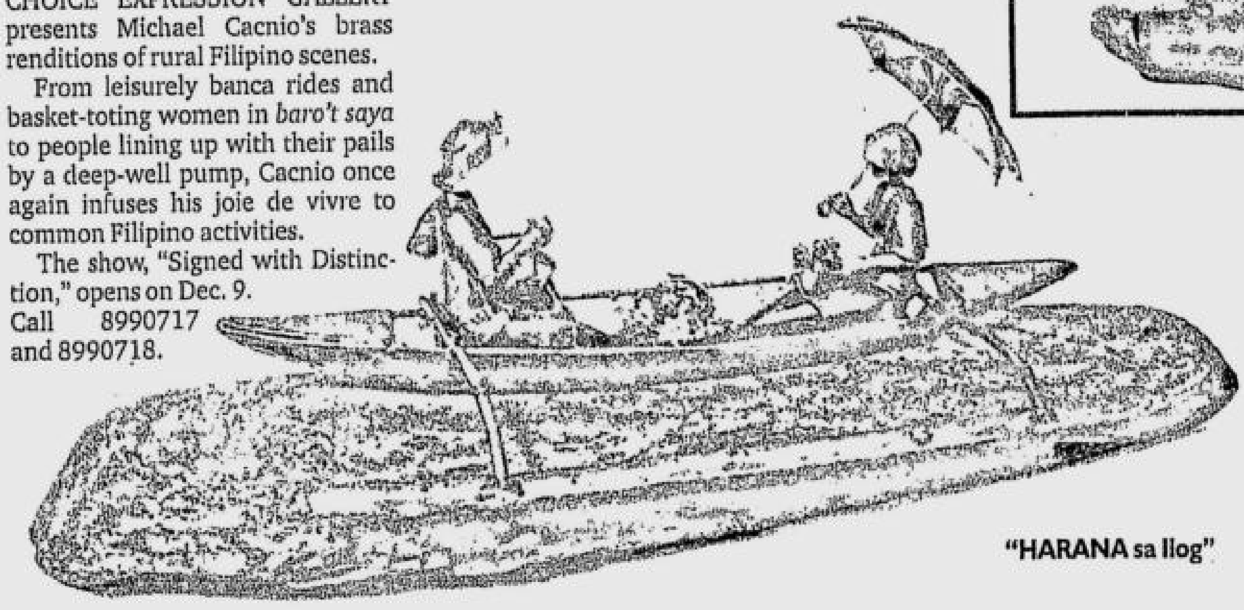

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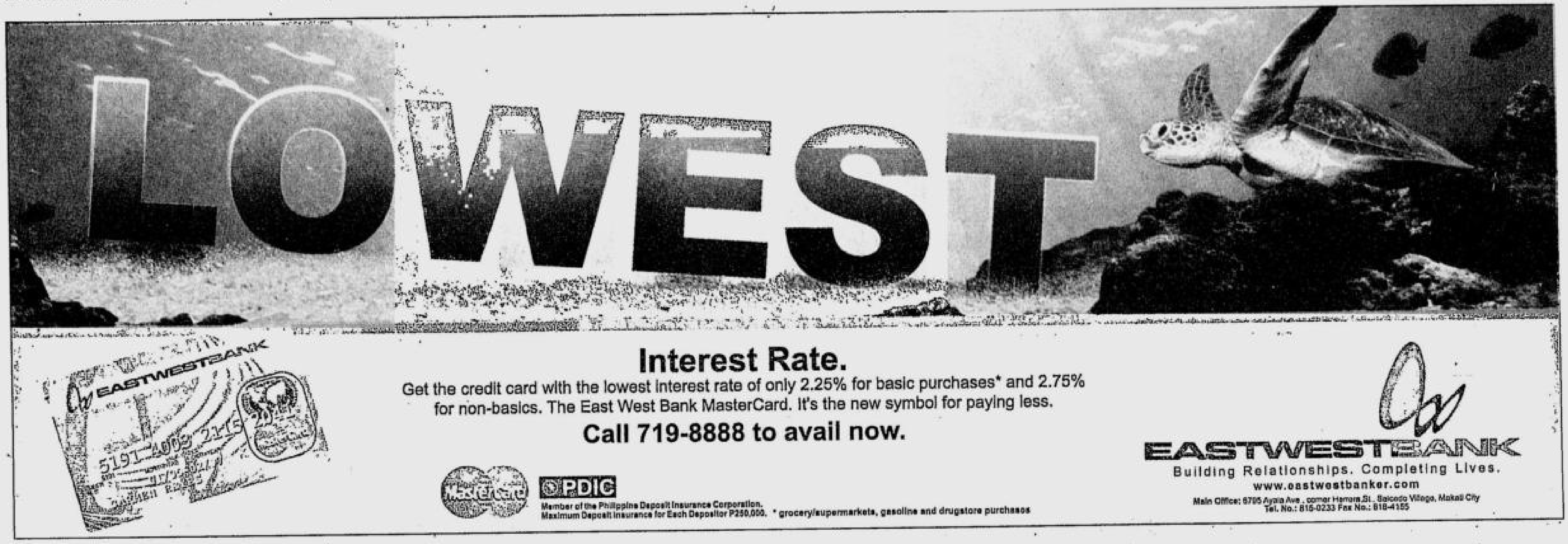
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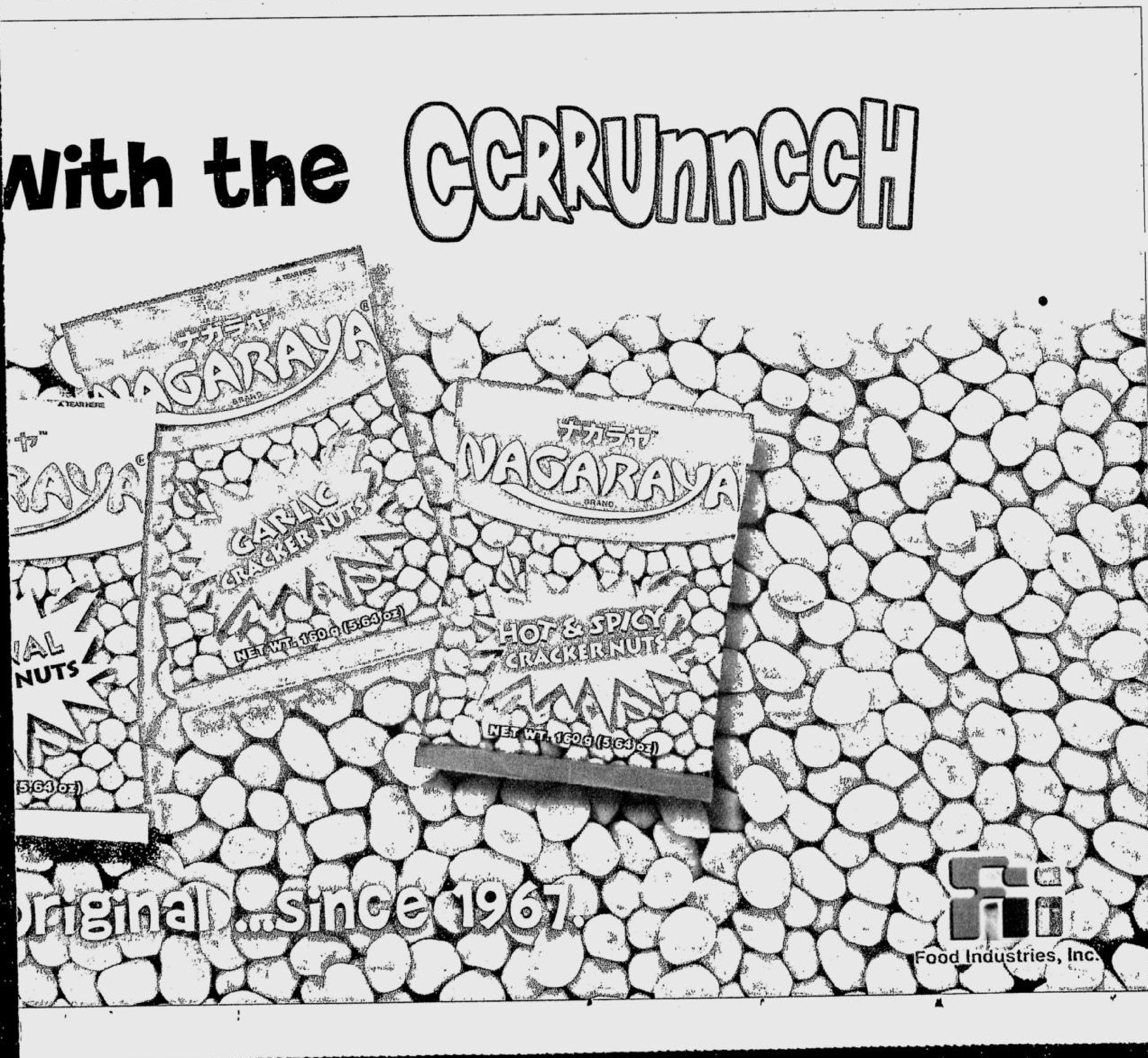
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Cebu gets its act together for heritage conservation

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

VERY RARELY IN THE Philippines do provincial leaders recognize the uniqueness of their people and so take the effort to assess their cultural strengths as a prelude to mapping out a program to preserve their cultural identity.

Cebu is among the first provinces to take the step. Spearheaded by Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, provincial government authorities met with prominent Cebuano businessmen and the Archdiocese of Cebu to establish Garbo sa Sugbo (Cebuano Pride) Foundation.

The private foundation is a landmark. It finally unites the government, Church and business, all normally having divergent visions in the preservation issue. Their common cause is to identify and preserve all aspects of Cebuano heritage. It is a great first step.

What Garbo sa Sugbo Foundation aims is to make each Cebuano aware of his or her people's special story and to eventually be able to tell that story with pride.

Not many Filipinos have pride of place these days, much less pride of country. On the other hand, pride is bred into each Cebuano since birth.

Cebuanos are fiercely proud of their language, their place in Philippine history, and their innate sense of entrepreneurship.

Garbo sa Sugbo Foundation is out to protect Cebu heritage

The island's geographical location made it the logical hub for the maritime shipping industry in the Philippines.

Cebuano craftsmanship has made the province a respected manufacturing center for export products.

Probably the leading destination in the country, Cebu once promoted itself as an "Island in the Pacific" to escape negative publicity during the turbulent days of Philippine politics. The tourists kept coming.

Tourism has made Cebuanos aware of their island's natural qualities—clear water, beaches, islets, and dive sites, truly the "Island in the Pacific" as it once claimed to be.

Heritage is another issue. Cebuanos are largely unfamiliar with their heritage. Garbo sa Sugbo Foundation aims to change all that.

As a first step, foundation members representing different sectors of cultural activity committed to completing an inventory of all expressions of Cebuano heritage, including traditional literature, music, art, crafts, cuisine, architecture, heritage towns.

What to do next

The next step after the inventory is to determine what to do with all of the cultural riches still existing in the province.

The inventory expands long-established activities for Cebuano cultural regeneration.

One of the most successful activities is the Cebu Heritage Frontier by the Ramón Aboitiz Foundation, which has long been documenting architectural heritage in four Spanish colonial towns on the south coast of the island. The program trains locals to respect and preserve their heritage, and introduces community-based cultural tourism programs designed to economically benefit the locals.

Other members of Garbo sa Sugbo Foundation are individually involved with research in traditional Cebuano art, literature, cuisine.

The foundation institutionalizes research activities and provides a central repository for the information.

Documentation of Cebuano culture will lead to the preparation of a cultural heritage plan with programs to establish methods of preservation following internationally prescribed principles, to categorize and prioritize certain areas of preservation, and to determine what public-private cooperation is needed for effective preservation.

A model for public-private cooperation is now in place with the recent provincial declaration of Carcar as a Heritage Town and the passing of the Carcar heritage bill which designates heritage zones, levels of protection for heritage structures, and, most importantly, enlists the participation of the Carcar Heritage Conservation Society to provide technical expertise in the task of preserving their historic town.

Unknown to many, much is being done for the conservation of heritage in Cebu.

Another example, the Santo Niño Basilica and Casa Gorordo Museum, both national monuments protected by the National Historical Institute, are being conserved under the supervision of qualified restoration architects. This indicates there's awareness that restoration is a specialized activity that cannot be done by unqualified professionals.

Despite the work being done to conserve the heritage of Cebu, much is still being lost.

The Garbo sa Sugbo program intends to reawaken Cebuanos to their unique heritage and to add the dimension of cultural pride as a defining factor to the already existing Cebuano sense of pride.

After regaining pride of its natural and cultural richness, it will be time for Cebu to at last step out of its island boundaries and offer its cultural rediscovery and preservation experience to the rest of the country as a model for nation-building through establishing a sense of Filipino pride.

Feedback is welcome at afvillalon@hotmail.com

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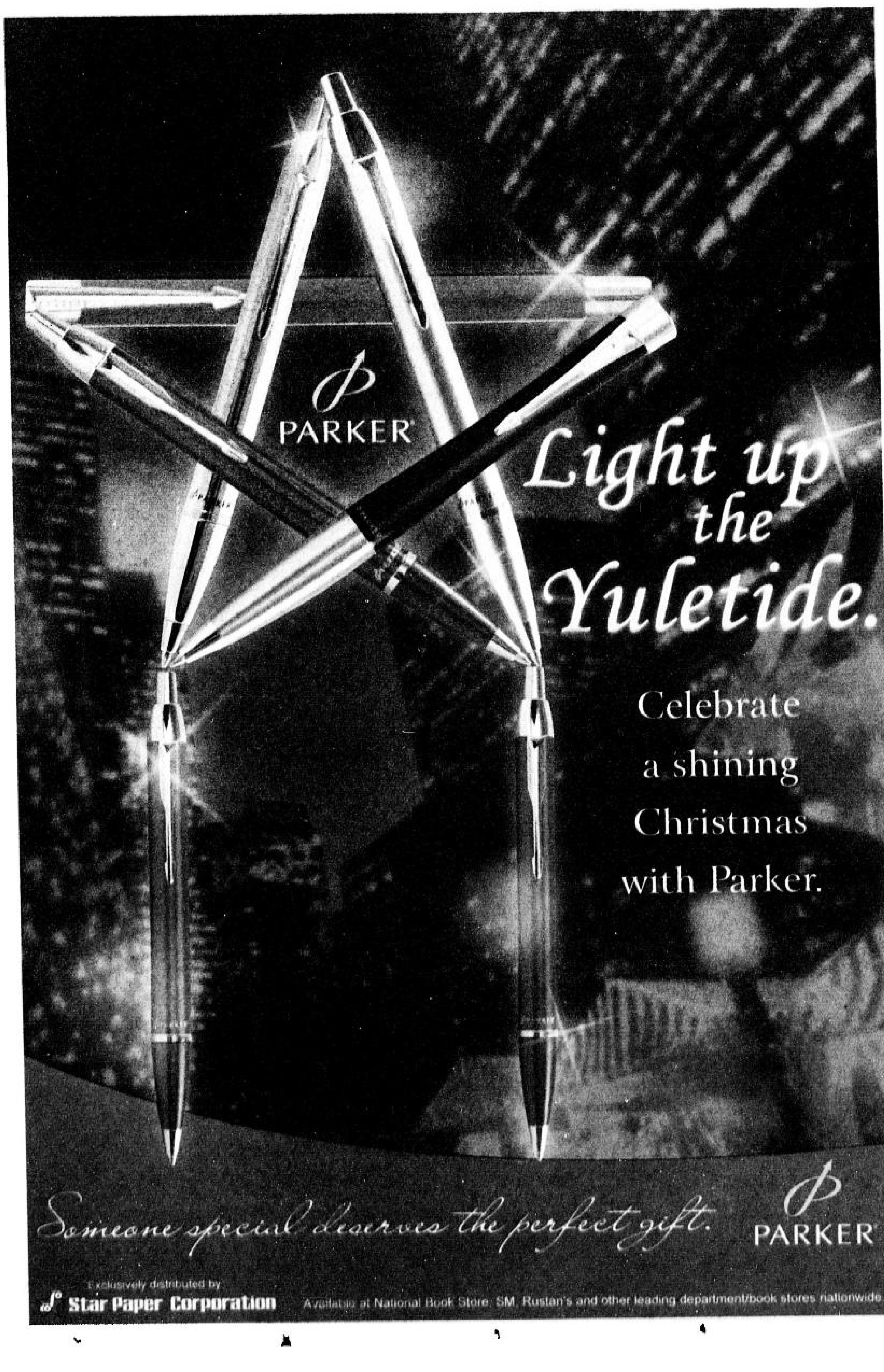
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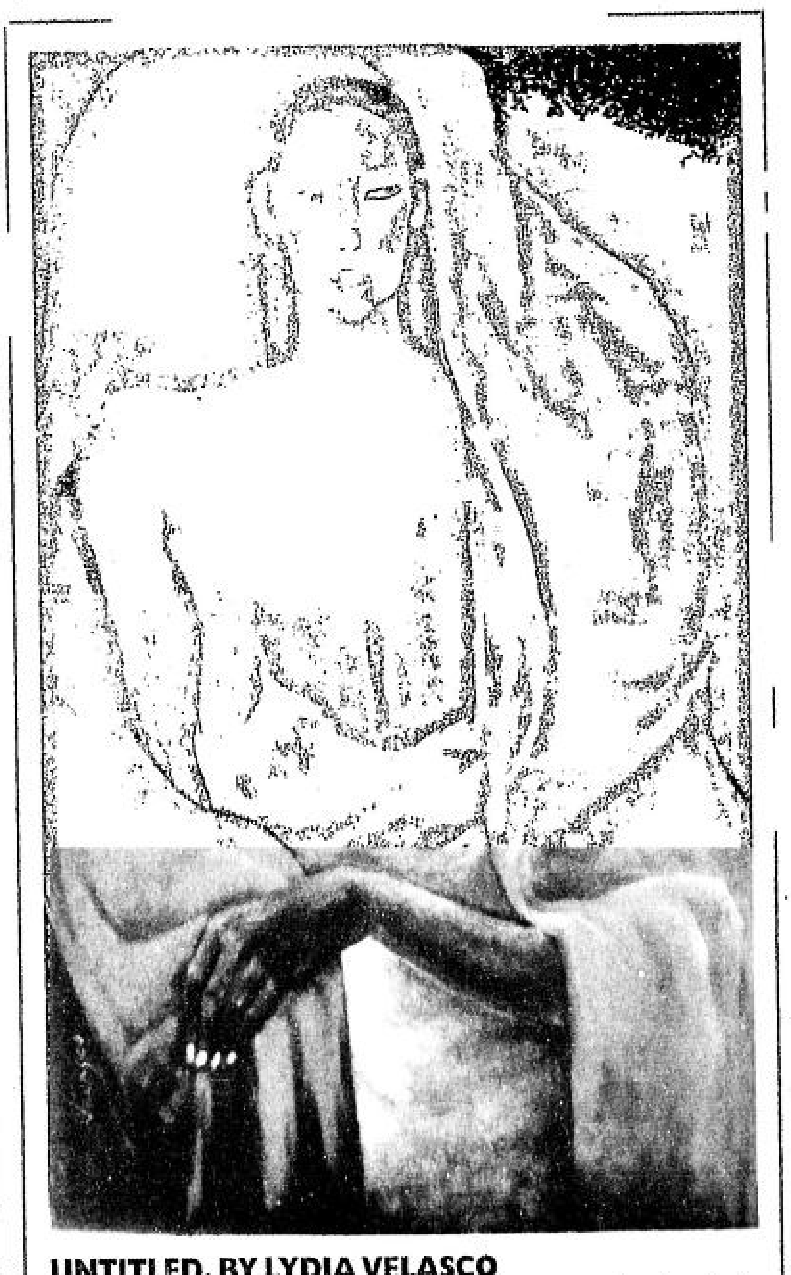

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"Kulay Pasko," a group exhibit of Kulay Marikina artists headed by Lydia Velasco is ongoing at Hues Gallery until Dec. 15. Sponsored by Davies Paint, Hues Gallery is in MC Depot at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

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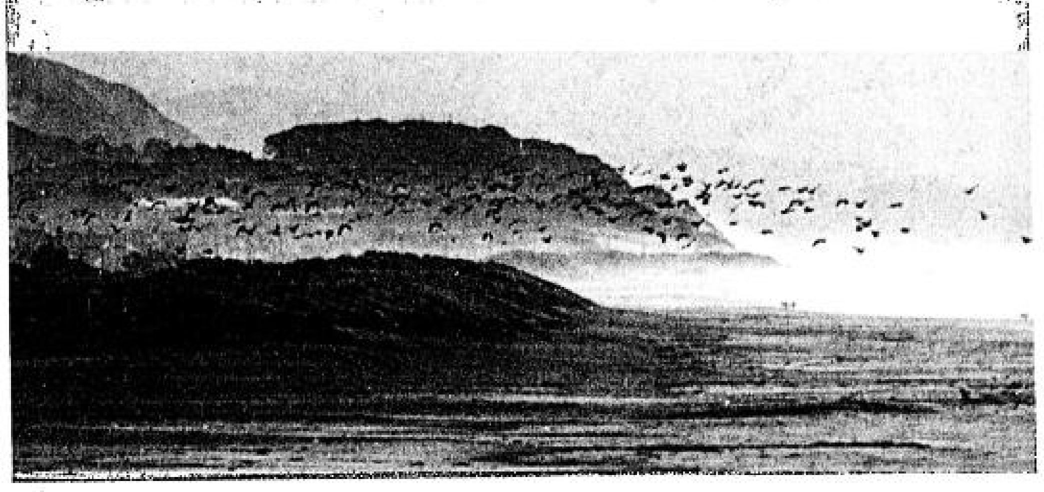
Jim Paredes takes a different sort of hike

The ex-Apo Hiking Society singer trains his lens on Nature

By Christian V. Esguerra



"PASSING"

PAREDES

YOU'VE SEEN HIS COVERS, HIS calendars, his nude prints.

But nearly a decade after he turned pro as a photographer, singer Jim Paredes remains in the eyes of many of his fans as still that quiet, mysterious Apo Hiking Society member.

Probably not even after his pictures have landed on the covers of popular glossy magazines or in the calendars and ads of Bill Clinton's reportedly favorite wristwatch.

In shopping malls and coffee shops, much of the recollection about him is still in the company of Danny and Buboy and their timeless tunes as arguably the country's oldest existing band.

Not that he's bothered by it. But to put Jim Paredes in a box with only notes and guitars would be like describing Shaquille O'Neal as just another big man in basketball.

The man's got creativity and tons of curiosity. Not only does he sing, he also writes books and he takes pictures. Lots of them.

Jim Paredes, the photographer, will be the main attraction in "A.W.E. (Air, Water, Earth)" exhibit at the Renaissance Art Gallery at SM Megamall Dec. 8-15.

"Musically, I think I've made a statement of sorts," he tells the INQUIRER. "As photographer, this is a major statement."

His being a musician gives him a "ready audience" curious about how he is as a photographer. That's where the challenge and excitement lie. Is he just as good with a camera as he is with the guitar?

"Curiosity is really a big factor," he says.

Fortunately for him, he's been around the photography circle for quite some time. He turned pro in 1997 but the passion dates from way back.

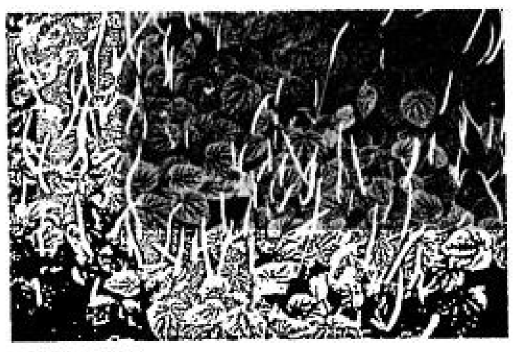
"I've had repeat clients," he says. "I wouldn't mind photography as a job. I shoot for both passion and profession."

His works had been showcased before but only in exhibits organized by Epson, primarily to promote new products and technology. The one-man Megamall exhibit will be his first in a "real art gallery" and the 51-year-old lensman is giddy.

On exhibit will be 32 "nature shots" mostly taken during Apo's tours in Australia, New Zealand, Toronto, Denmark, the United

JIM/ D4

"WHAT Dreams May Come"



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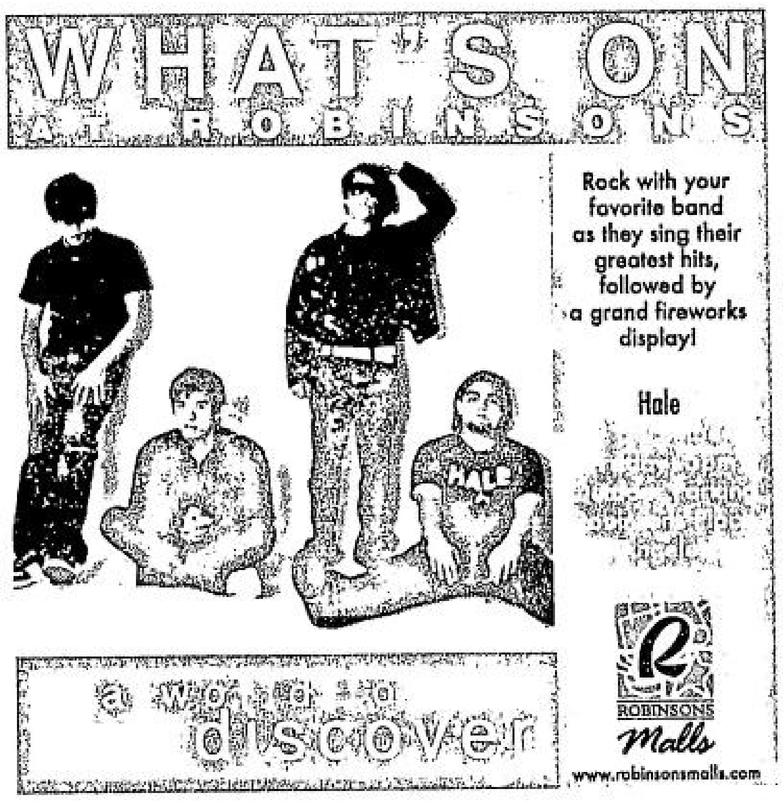

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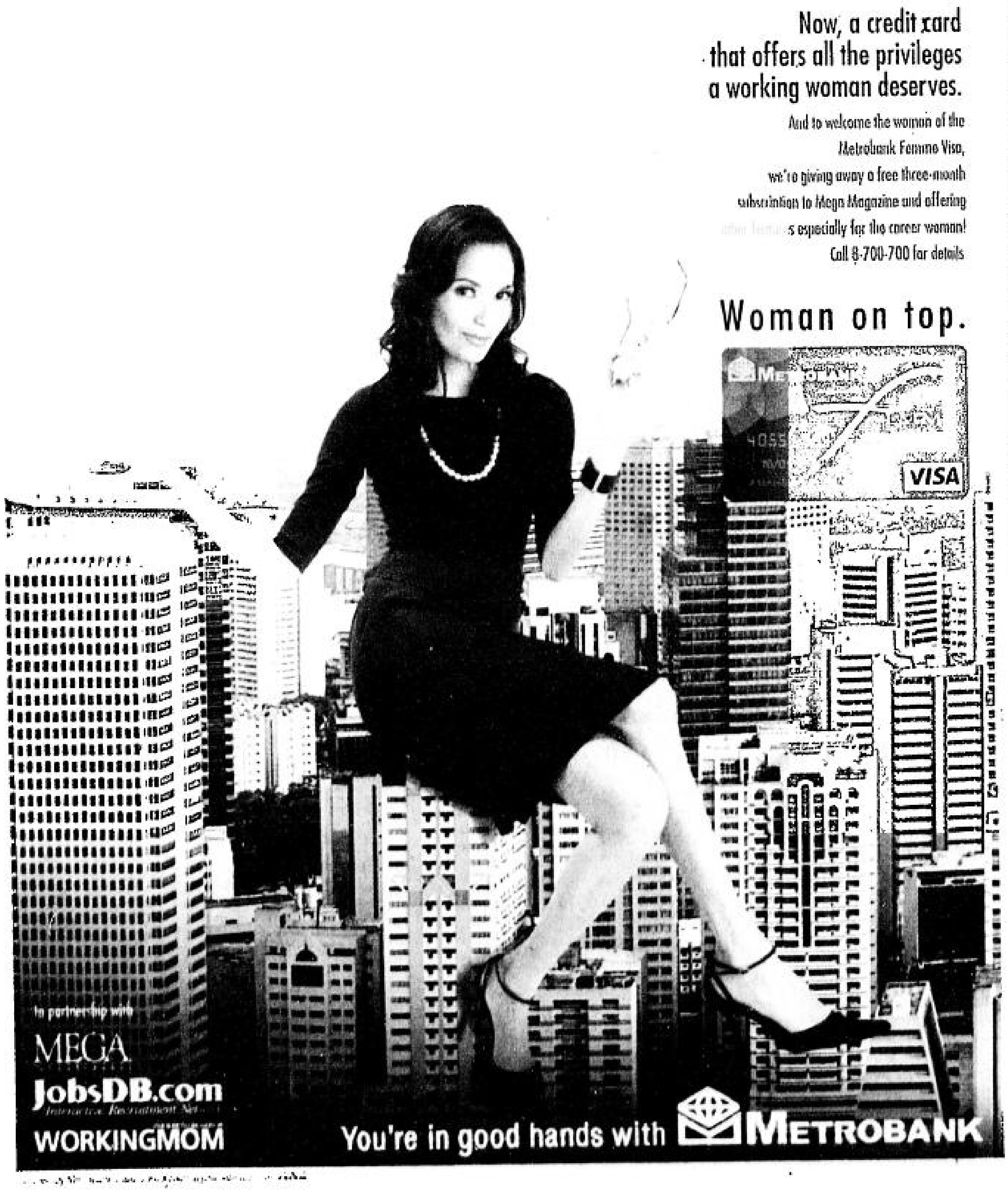

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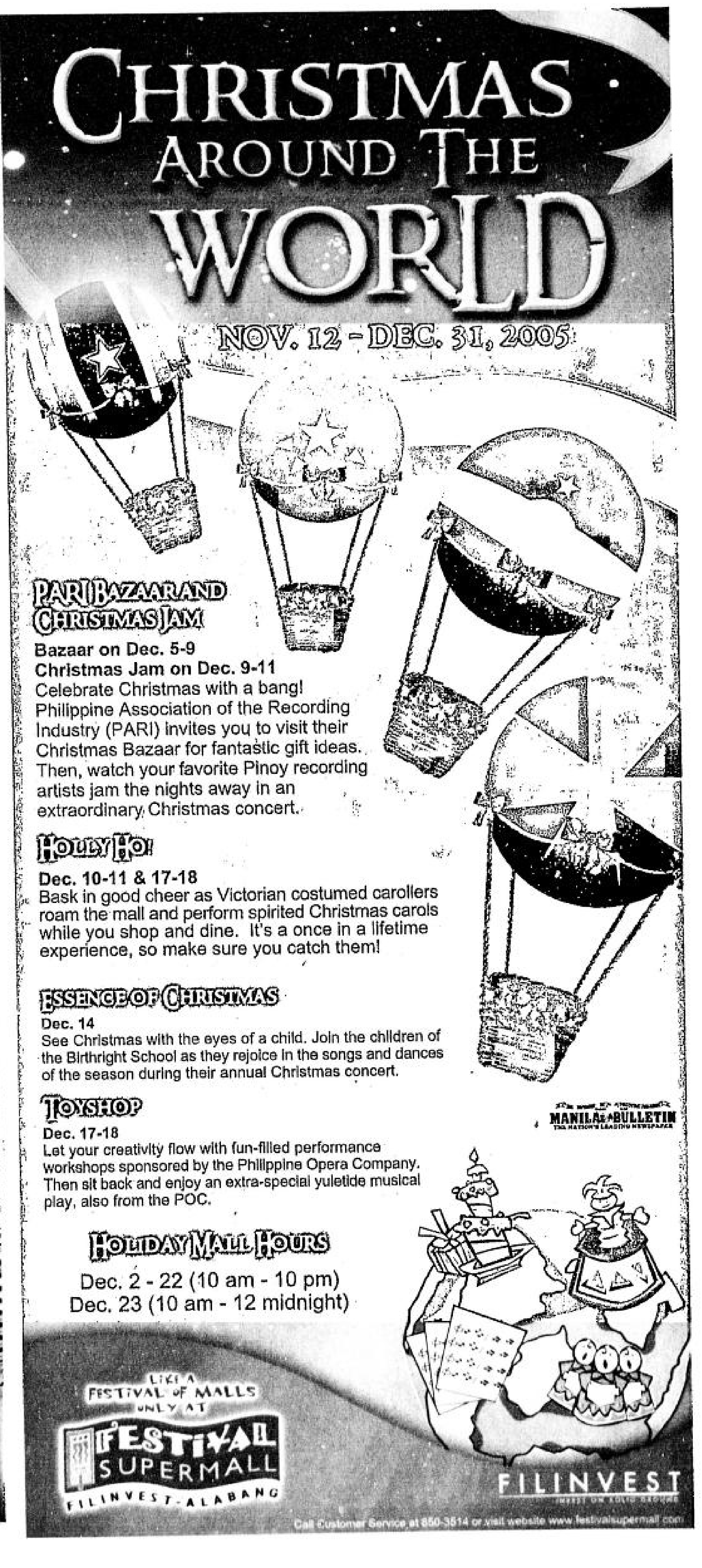

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Contemporary drama thrives in Iloilo

THE CAST of "Anatomiya ng Korupsyon" with the executive producers, Gilopez and Corazon Kabayao

By Gibbs Cadiz

"ANATOMIYA NG KORUPSYON" (ANATOMY OF Corruption) is a title that suggests a dry, jargon-y treatise on government malfeasance, loaded with words like *moreover* and *foregoing* and pages bleeding at the edges with *ibids* and *op. sits*.

Malou Jacob's play of the same title, however, recently presented by the Iloilo-based Gilopez Kabayao Foundation Inc. at St. Anne's Hall in Assumption-Iloilo, is anything but.

In this effervescently mounted drama, which showcased the abilities of Iloilo's community theater, the wages of corruption and mendacity, petty and common as they are, emerge in bold, specific strokes—in flesh and blood, almost literally. Well-ordered lives are jarred, emotions rise to a boil, decency attracts tiny but endless assaults that draw blood, and a murder gives rise to a logical if despairing epiphany.

In other words, this is one "Anatomy of Corruption" that is anything but dry and academic.

Quick buck

The scene is a Family Court office peopled with the kind of government personnel that have taken up permanent residence in stereotypes and comic punchlines—lazy, slow, underpaid workers, forever on the lookout for ways to make a quick buck off normal institutional processes. A stoned, chipper atmosphere where everyone, from the affable judge to the antic utility boy, has settled, slack and gossipy, to await mandatory retirement.

Into this becalmed state stumbles a gale force of prissy rectitude, a young lawyer named Cely who has no patience both for glacial paperwork and the small envelopes that every now and then account for its miraculous change of pace. Integrity confronts accommodation, and the stage is set for a volcanic test of wills.

JP Libo-on as Atty. Cely Martinez (left) and Anthony Torres as Atty. Ric Ricarte

Jacob's play adopts a workaday plainness of language in sketching its story. The brisk dialogue is spoken by a large and well-knit set of characters whose common lot is that they've looked after each other's backs for a long time. These clerks, typists and contractuals ride the daily tide of tedious government work with blasé brio, justifying the petty shakedowns as inevitable in a job environment that has little, if any, rewards.

Cely's arrival, however, risks capsizing the steady boat these workers have made for themselves.

Even the judge, normally unflappable and rarely drawn into implicating detail, gets sufficiently perturbed to warn his henchman-attorney to cut Cely down to size. *"Ayoko ng gulo,"* he hisses.

What's a woman like Cely to do when everyone in the office turns against her? Worse, when her mother lands in the hospital, and the lure of easy money gives her anguished pause?

"Anatomiya" is hardly the first play to tackle this dilemma, but mercifully the mother's illness, always an excuse to foray into melodrama, is restricted to a few allusive phone calls.

What gives Cely's ethical plight the quiver of real life is Jacob's reliance on the drab and ordinary occasions of rot—the insidious small talk, the quick sleights-of-hand, the routine deals—as the steady drip-drip-drip of acid that threatens to wear down Cely's resolve.

Verisimilitude

As played by a cast of mostly nonprofessional actors, the Kabayao Foundation's "Anatomiya," directed by 25-year-old Dora Jane Balleras, achieves an artless verisimilitude, implying that these performers know this fictional public office and its denizens only too well.

The actors are a product of open auditions, and it is amazing to discover that in real life the judge is really a pastor, the typist a teacher, one of the clerks an infectious-diseases specialist, the office's resident flirt a CPA, and another character a statistician offstage.

What these performers lack in professional expertise they make up for in enthusiasm and a telling familiarity with the characters they are portraying.

> 'Anatomiya ng Korupsyon,' staged in Iloilo by the Kabayao Foundation, offered a full-bodied, thought-provoking night in the theater

They know how these people move, talk, flatter, feign surprise at the slightest suggestion of impropriety. Interaction with government bureaucracy, after all, is often more acute in the provinces, even in a city as well-off as Iloilo.

Seeing these ordinary citizens take to the stage to essay characters and circumstances many of them must have encountered first-hand is an involving experience. Truth is on their side, and everything else—bad lighting, plain set design, the occasional overeagerness, and all the other logistical and artistic straits of community theater—pales in significance.

The fact that none of them looks remotely like an *artista* also adds a cogent dimension to this production. These ordinary-looking individuals, conscripted to the stage to portray ordinary-looking characters, bring an appealing directness and cohesion to what they do.

Natural grace

This is not to say that none gives off the natural grace of a star. In the role originally played by Irma Adlawan in Tanghalang Pilipino's production of "Anatomiya," JP Libo-on is excellent as Cely. Her refusal to play her character as a plaster saint reveals an actress of intelligence and nerve.

There is certainly something off-putting about her Cely. The large piercing eyes, upturned chin, pursed lips and clipped diction all conspire to create a figure of superciliousness that makes it easier for her officemates to mock her, no matter her sincere intentions.

Libo-on's steep descent to pariah-hood, helped along by her unintentionally righteous airs, heightens the conflict and keeps it from oversimplifying itself into a good-versus-bad drama.

Her main nemesis, Atty. Ric, is played by Anthony Torres, who used to act occasionally in telenovelas in Manila but has relocated to Iloilo. Torres adroitly captures the suave, oily nature of the lifelong bureaucrat, the one who knows all the corners to cut to keep the petty cash flowing.

The plump typist Manang Charing is brought to life, hilariously, by Elsie Flores Gancia. Her office colleagues, a gaggle of perky, squawking characters, are portrayed by Deanna Hortillosa, Jerelyn Joy Catadman, Gia de la Cruz, Felice Garingalao-Molina, Alexander Balsamo, Marcel Milliam and Ariel Sogueco.

Sogueco rightfully earns applause for his pitch-perfect rendition of Bok, the gregarious, ever-flirty fixer who nearly collapses upon hearing Cely refuse a case that would have netted them P15,000. *"Pang-ulam na sana ni misis yun,"* he groans.

Pointless

Fourteen other non-pros join these people in populating the rather cramped stage of St. Anne's Hall, one of Iloilo's oldest performance venues.

"Anatomiya's" scrappy staging and technical values could stand improvement. But weighing it against the standards of professional theater in Manila would be unfair, even pointless.

Within its own circumscribed ambitions, this "Anatomiya" managed to offer a full-bodied, thought-provoking night in the theater.

The Kabayao Foundation, long a leading force in Iloilo's cultural life, deserves praise for yet another seemingly quixotic undertaking, all for the love of the art. (It has also staged "The Miracle Worker" and "My Fair Lady" in this province, to acclaim from even a number of Manila-based journalists).

To be called "amateur" in theater is usually considered a slur. But *amateur* also means "lover," and, in that light, Iloilo's plucky community of theater artists-on-call earns the "amateur" tag with a big salute.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

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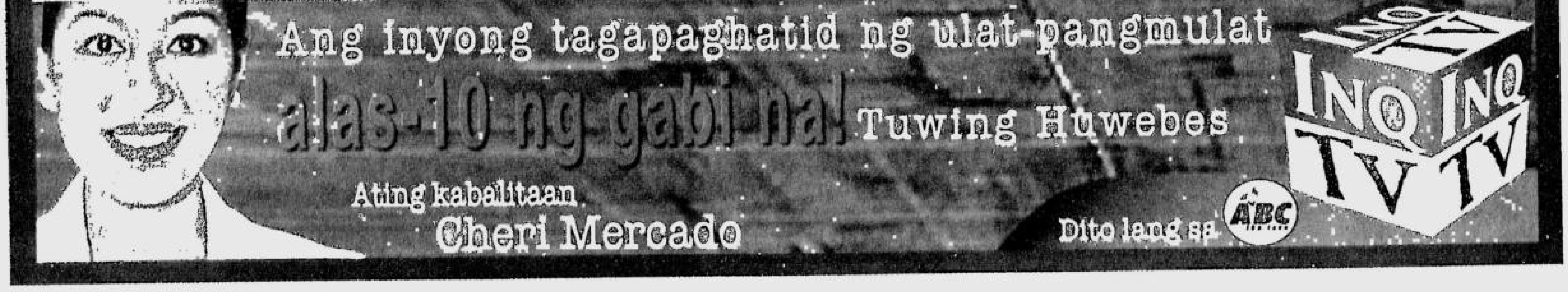
MTV Philippines	Rockola	MTV Ask	Chart Attack		Viva La Bam	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Massive	Get Spotted	TRL		The 70's House	Wild N' Out	Homecoming	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten				Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		Spider Deadly Love		Planet Wild		Snake Wranglers	Totally Wild	Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Dangerous Encounters		Bug Attack S2	
NBN				New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Sea Games				Teledyaryo				Dial M		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Blue's Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	ChalkZone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Pablik Enemi 1N2				Ibang Mo Man Ang Puso				Basagulero				Biktima				Tumakas Ka Sa Mundong Makasalanan
Qtv		Endless Christmas (Natividad Sin Fin)	Mañana (Sin Pecado Concebido)	Cabecita	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Golden Bowl	Star	Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit	H3O Hanana...Ovat		All In	News On Q	Liga Ng Kababaihan		Groupee TV	
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Score Tactics	NBA On RPN					Newswatch Now	Simple Life 2	Cerge For Truth	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Friends Again	
Solar Sports	FIVB World Champ Cup Women's Event: USA vs Kor				2005 IBF Hongkong Badminton finals					Sagupaan		Sportsdesk		NBA Game Bobcats @ Lakers					NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus						Ultimate Fighting Championship				NFL 2005 Atlanta @ Carolina						Chrysler Championship Day 3			
Star Movies				The Hand That Rocks The Cradle			A Very Cool Christmas (5:45PM)				When Zachary Beaver Came To Town			Bruce Almighty			Lord Of The Flies (10:45PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	Married To The Kellys/ Monk	Everybody Loves Raymond	King Of Queens	Bucker/Miss World Asia Pacific, Vote For Me, Miss World Caribbean Vote For Me	Monk		Friends	Married To The Kellys/ Monk
Studio 23		Yugioh Duel Monsters						Get Backers	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	The Swan Season 2		Tru Calling (8:20 PM)	Charmed (9:10 PM)		News Central	The West Wing		Travel Time

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

A joyous celebration of life and music

By Antonio Hila
Contributor

AT 75, OSCAR YATCO IS STILL AT IT, WIELDING the baton like a magic wand, his right hand gripping it firmly, like he usually did since four decades ago, before musicians with whom he made absorbing symphonic music.

His stint as resident conductor of the defunct Manila Symphony Orchestra, hailed as Asia's best, made him the first Filipino music director.

Yatco's entry to the world of conducting was preceded by momentous achievements as a violinist. After completing his studies at the Juilliard School of Music under the guidance of the eminent pedagogue Ivan Galamian, he won the International ARD Violin Competition in Munich, Germany; played with the Munich-based Stross String Quartet, and concertized in several countries.

He was the first concertmaster of the Mannheim National Theater and the Wagner Festival Orchestra at Bayreuth. He was a professor at the State Academy of Music in Hannover, Germany.

Yatco became consultant of the old Cultural Center of the Philippines' Philharmonic Orchestra, now known as the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, upon the behest of then First Lady Imelda R. Marcos. He was its music director for almost two decades, and was honored with the title Conductor Laureate.

Phenomenon

The Yatco "touch" is a much talked about phenomenon. His hallmark is a world-class, debonair sound that stoutly resonates with life itself. His baton pulsates with the spirit he has objectified in the piece he performs with the orchestra. He commands respect from the musicians, which is the very soul of unforgettable music-making.

He deserved the homage given him recently by the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) at the Phil-Am Life Theater on the occasion of his 75th birthday. Symphonic music was again at its best as he conducted the composite MPO in a performance of Peña's Igorot Rhapsody, Dvorak's "From the New World" Symphony, and Mendelssohn's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in E minor, with young violinist Joaquin Maria "Chino" S. Gutierrez as soloist.

In form, the program was similar to those the maestro had done in so many symphonic concerts before. This recent concert, however, was unique as so many musicians who, at one time or another played with the maestro, performed with the regular MPO members.

> Yatco's hallmark is a world-class, debonair sound that stoutly resonates with life itself

Significant addition

It was made more significant with the engagement of Gutierrez as soloist. The maestro taught and helped him secure a study grant in Germany. Gutierrez just finished the first year of his pre-college schooling at the Hochshule fur Musik und Theater Munchen in Munich under the tutelage of noted pedagogue Prof. Jens Ellerman.

The musician cut a virtuoso stance on stage, holding his violin in an upright position. His tones were elegant, clear and striking. He played with gusto, neatly rendering Mendelssohn's work with vital dispatch. From the first to the last movement, he caressed his lines, especially in the second movement, showing his virtuosity in the middle section as he etched those fast configurations and double stops.

There was no doubting the fact that, in due time, Gutierrez's tones would grow more, although what was outstanding about them during the performance were their mellowness. Indeed, no hint of stiffness was heard. Truly, in due time, the violinist would become a major talent.

Yatco animatedly conducted the MPO. His collaboration with Gutierrez was in tight rapport that listening was a delight. And so it was in the symphonic numbers. He exuded authority as he rhapsodized Peña's work, which was an effective opener. In the bigger symphonic work of Dvorak, he wielded his baton with a firm grasp, making the performance one of the finest ever heard on stage.

The celebration was completed with the reading of art critic Rosalinda Orosa's ode to the maestro. Executive director Cecile G. Alvarez of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts informed the audience of the agency's readiness to help budding artists.

The celebration would not have been complete without the cake brought on stage by MPO founder and music director Rodel F. Colmenar, and the singing of "Happy Birthday."

CARRIE-ANNE Matheson, pianist

JENNIFER Hines, mezzo-soprano

LEAH Woods Friedman, soprano

The best of New York opera come to Manila

RYAN Taylor, baritone

JOSHUA Winograde, bass-baritone

THE VIRLANIE FOUNDATION and the Rotary Gift of Life Inc., charitable organizations ministering to poor children, are the beneficiaries of "Beloved," a twin-bill concert showcasing topnotch talents from New York's opera scene and the haute couture of Inno Sotto, on Dec. 9 at the Makati Shangri-La's Rizal Ballroom.

Featured in the opera concert are baritone Ryan Taylor, soprano Lea Woods Friedman, bass-baritone Joshua Winograde, mezzo-soprano Jennifer Hines, tenor Scott Piper and pianist Carrie-Anne Matheson.

Taylor is famous for his memorable performances in various productions of "Volpone," "La Boheme," and "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Friedman, a young lyric soprano, first performed in "Turandot" with the Hawaii Opera Theater.

Winograde has been hailed as "the one to keep our ears on" by American Media magazine. He has performed in productions of "Don Giovanni" and "Viva La Mamma" among others. Winograde studied at the famed Julliard School in New York.

Mezzo-soprano Hines has been hailed by Opera News for her "rich, dark mezzo," adding that her voice is "so rich and colored she easily steals any scene in which she appears." She made her debut in 2003 in "Moses and Aron" at the Metropolitan Opera.

Matheson is a pianist whose artistry and sensitivity has been praised by the New York Times. She is also assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

The repertoire consists of arias and choice pieces from such classics as "La Boheme" and "Carmen."

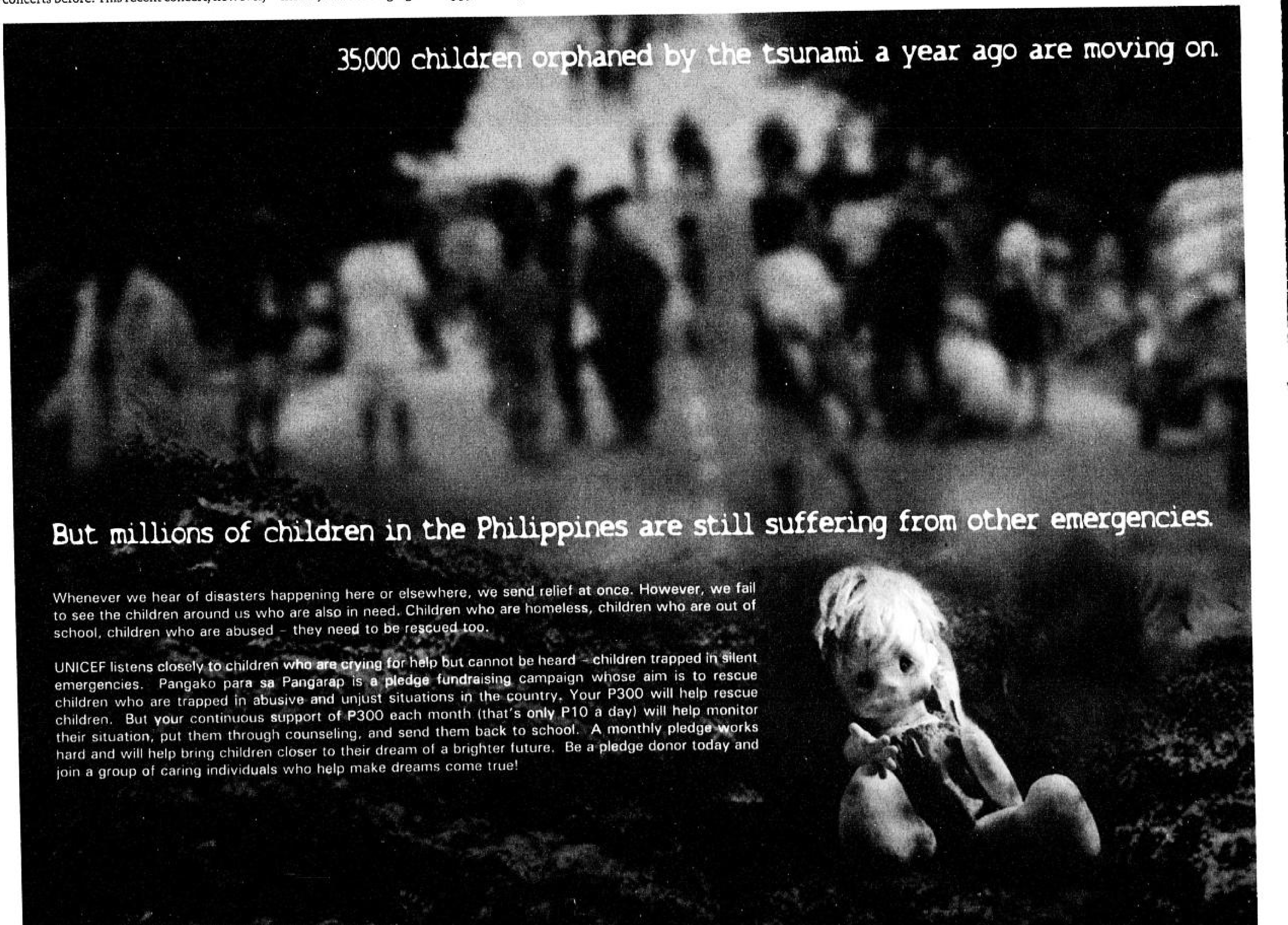
Act II of "Beloved" belongs to Inno Sotto's 40-piece collection. The clothes, are expected to enhance the drama of the evening, Sotto himself being a lover of opera and having designed for musical productions in the past.

The Virlanie Foundation, since its birth in 1992, has helped thousands of children who have been victims of various forms of abuse and exploitation.

Gift of Life Inc. is a worldwide Rotary International Service Program helping needy children who require corrective heart surgery.

Foreign dignitaries who are gracing the event include Robert Donno, founder and chair, Gift of Life International; Abraham Gordon, vice president of Rotary International; David Sullivan, Rotary Club international district governor; and Chad Everett, national spokesperson for Gift of Life. Also attending is Rafael Hechanova, Nominating Committee member, to choose Rotary International president for 2007-2008. Chairs of the event are Ambassador Albert del Rosario, Meldy Cojuanco, Mely Hechanova and Luis del Rosario.

Call 8175926.



35,000 children orphaned by the tsunami a year ago are moving on.
But millions of children in the Philippines are still suffering from other emergencies.

Whenever we hear of disasters happening here or elsewhere, we send relief at once. However, we fail to see the children around us who are also in need. Children who are homeless, children who are out of school, children who are abused – they need to be rescued too.

UNICEF listens closely to children who are crying for help but cannot be heard – children trapped in silent emergencies. Pangako para sa Pangarap is a pledge fundraising campaign whose aim is to rescue children who are trapped in abusive and unjust situations in the country. Your P300 will help rescue children. But your continuous support of P300 each month (that's only P10 a day) will help monitor their situation, put them through counseling, and send them back to school. A monthly pledge works hard and will help bring children closer to their dream of a brighter future. Be a pledge donor today and join a group of caring individuals who help make dreams come true!

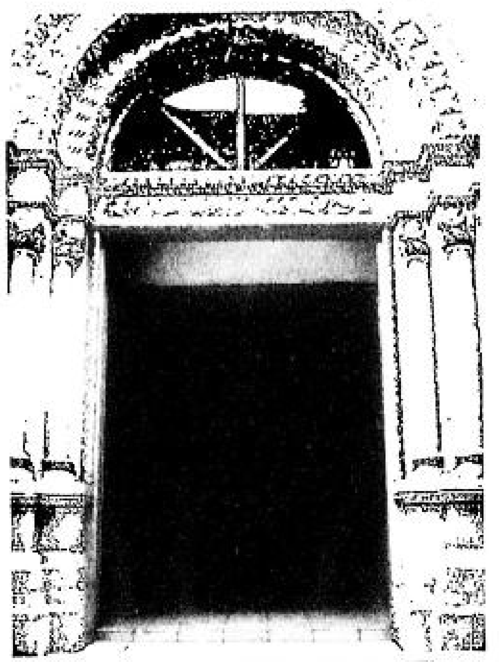
For more information, on Pangako Para sa Pangarap,
Log on to www.unicef.org/philippines, or call UNICEF at (632) 758 1000 (Mon to Fri, 8am to 5pm)

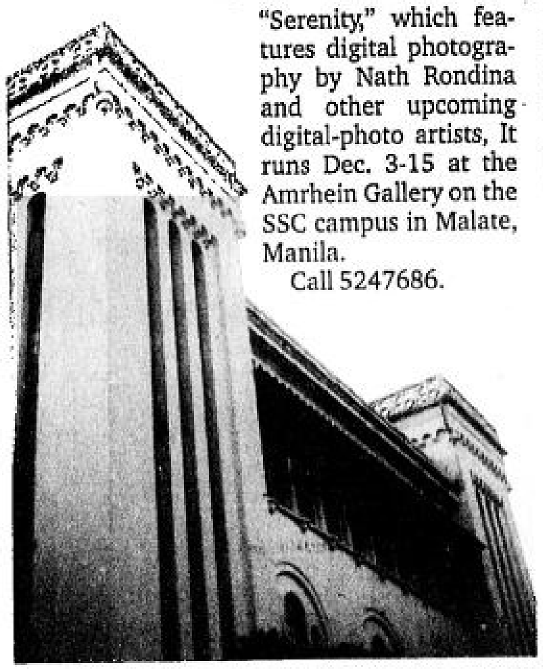
☑Yes, I want to help rescue a child and make her dreams come true!
Please contact me.
Name:
Address:
Contact Numbers:
Email Address:
IP06L INQ ET 120505

Kindly cut and fax to:
(632) 901-0195 or (632) 729-4529
Or send to:
United Nations Children's Fund
31/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue, 1200 Makati City
Philippines

unicef
Pangako para sa Pangarap

'Serenity' photo exhibit at Amrhein Gallery

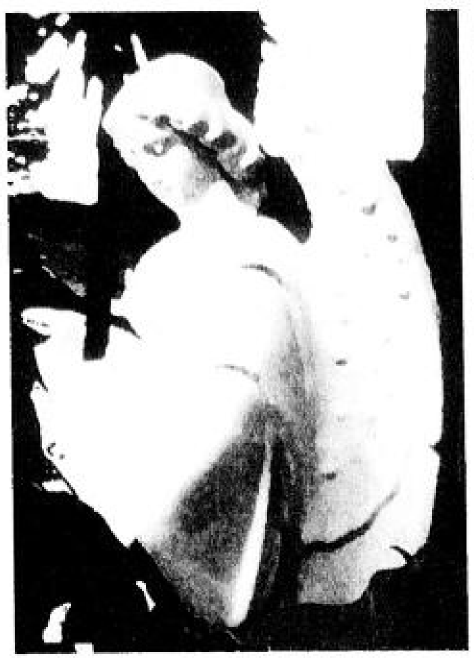




"FIRST, Answer the Riddle." Right: "Fiery Fortress (Ode to the Seventies)"

ST. SCHOLASTICA'S COLLEGE MANILA celebrates its 99th year with a photo exhibit, "Serenity," which features digital photography by Nath Rondina and other upcoming digital-photo artists, It runs Dec. 3-15 at the Amrhein Gallery on the SSC campus in Malate, Manila.

Call 5247686.



"MY GUARDIAN Dear," digital photography by Nath Rondina

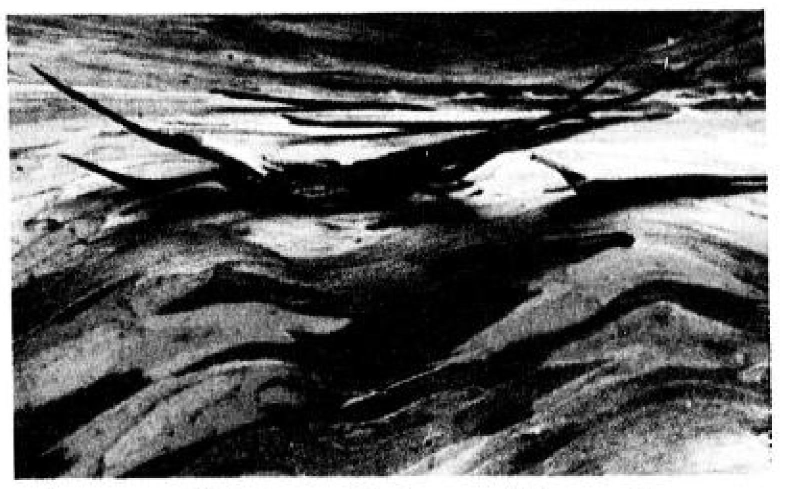


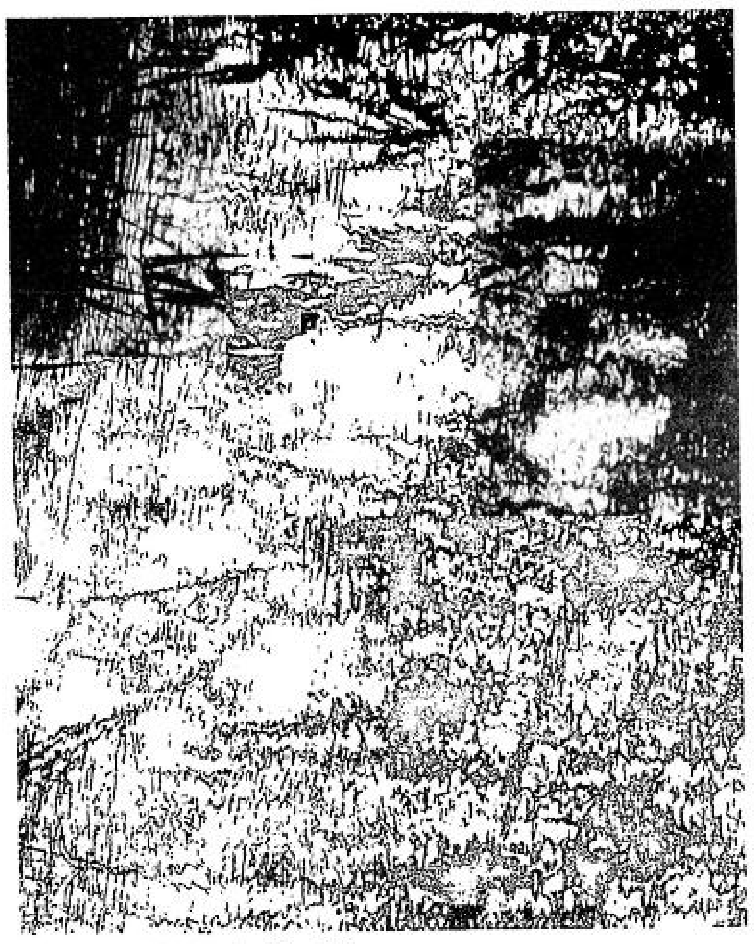
Photo exhibit at Alabang Town Center

THE AYALA ALABANG CAMERA Club is holding its 3rd annual photo exhibit until Dec. 11 at the Sports, Hobbies and Fitness Area (formerly Promenade), Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City.

"In My Mind's Eye," features 100 images: graphic/abstract, landscape/travel, portrait, light painting, human interest, humor, animals and food.

The exhibit is sponsored by Epson.

Photography hobbyists/professionals interested in membership may call 8076644/45 or 0916-4971180, or e-mail aacameraclub@yahoogroups.com.



"REFLECTION Series," by Soler

VISUAL ARTS

Raralio at Avellana, Soler at Finale, Wilwayco at Duemila

AVELLANA ART GALLERY PRESENTS THE sculptures of Dan Raralio in "Metal and Rock," which opens today. Utilizing shards of industrial metal, the artist reshapes and reconstructs them into forms characterized by an orderly jumble of arcs and diagonal lines.

The seemingly robust materiality of the works is destabilized by the curved base which makes them sway with the littlest force. They can also be positioned in different ways—an interaction which elevates the viewer's experience of the works from the merely visual. At once unique and befuddling, the works expand the dimensions of conceptual possibilities.

Avellana Art Gallery is at A-19, 2680 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City (fronting Gideon Academy). Call 8338357.

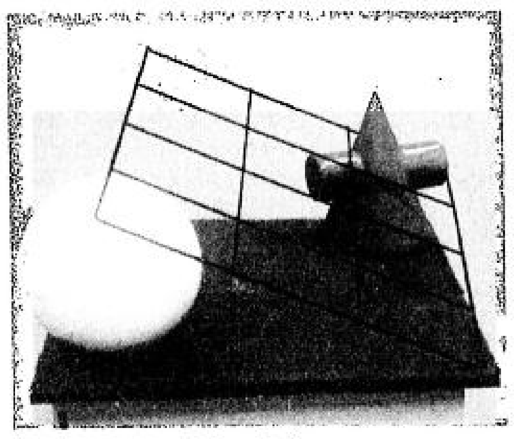
SOLER will hold "Reflections" on Dec. 8-31 in Finale Art Gallery (4/L SM Megamall A). Soler depicts water imagery based on photographs.

EDWIN Wilwayco opens "Moving Mountains" tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. in Galeria Duemila. Critic Cid Reyes, says the new series connects "Nature with faith, affirming the awesome power of belief," through abstract depictions of mountains, "sites of holy apparitions." Call 8319990.

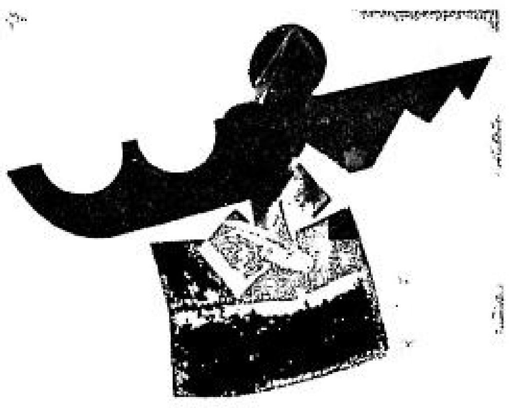
THE 20TH Asian International Art Exhibition features more than 171 recent works by contemporary artists from Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Philippines, Macao, Mongolia, Singapore and Taiwan. The exhibit is on view at the G/F and 4/F galleries of Ayala Museum, Makati Avenue cor. De la Rosa Street, Makati City, until March 26, 2006. Call 7577117 or visit www.ayalamuseum.com.

DE LA SALLE College of Saint Benilde's Multimedia Arts program launches "Identity," an exhibit of 15 graduating students. The exhibit opens today and runs until Dec. 10, at the Enterprise Center, Makati City.

ART Informal holds Christmas Art Bazaar on Dec. 10-11. The bazaar will feature gift items and small works designed and crafted by contemporary Filipino artists. It brings together several works by different artists and designers in a *tiangge* with a creative twist. Participating artists include José Santos III, Erwin Leaño, Joel Alonday, Pablo Capati, Riel Hilario, Carlo Angelo Saavedra and Tina Fernandez. Art Informal is at 277 Connecticut St., East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Call 7258518.



ARTWORK by Nobuo Arita



"HORN," by Dan Raralio

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2878, Series of 2005.

Jim . . .

From page D1

States, and the Philippines since 2001.

They're a digression from Jim's favorite nudes. Or from the riot of beautiful faces, plants and Metro scenes he had had to mount in two previous exhibits. Finally, here's a showcase that has a solid, though not exactly fresh, theme.

Most of the pictures (printed on easily attractive metallic paper and framed on 16" x 24" or 20" x 30" canvas) aren't bad to see in a postcard or a nature magazine.

An, easy favorite could be "Passing" which shows a flock of birds flying over a patch of green and a backdrop of a misty mountain range taken in San Francisco last month.

Or "Neruda's Port" showing yachts in Vancouver which reminded the lensman of late poet.

The tree in "What Dreams May Come" looks as mystical as those in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. Only that it's real, its seemingly snow-flaked leaves peering over specks of white and purple flowers beneath it.

Baguio's allure is captured in "Shoots," a playful image of what seem like branches shooting up from a deck of leaves in various shades of green.

Jim's images are at once fresh and calm, partly owing to the inherent character of the subject matter.

Credit the man for reminding us that there's definitely no shortage of beauty out there.

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

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The dish on Bush

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KITTY KELLEY
THE FAMILY
THE REAL STORY OF THE BUSH DYNASTY

American letters' queen of mud casts a plague on the House of Bush

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

"The Family"
By Kitty Kelley
Bantam Books, 2005
777 pages

THE SKELETONS KEEP rattling and tumbling down from the closet of the Bush dynasty in this latest book by biographer Kitty Kelley, known for her exposés of such celebrities as Jackie Kennedy, Frank Sinatra, Elizabeth Taylor, Nancy Reagan and the British royals.

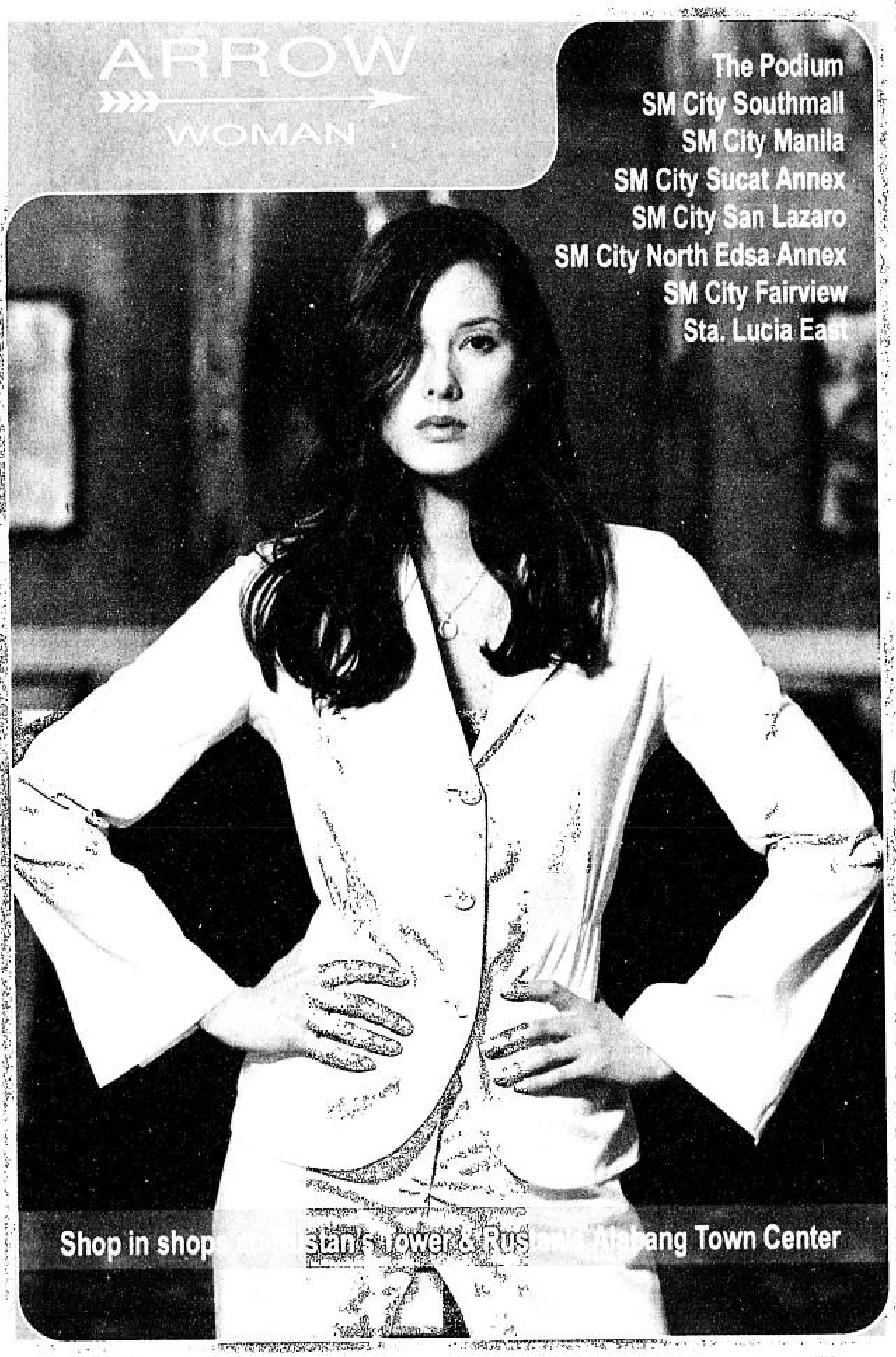
The Author's Note will prepare you for what is in store for the reader, as Kelley recounts how former US President George H.W. Bush, father of the current President George W. Bush, put up barriers to her research.

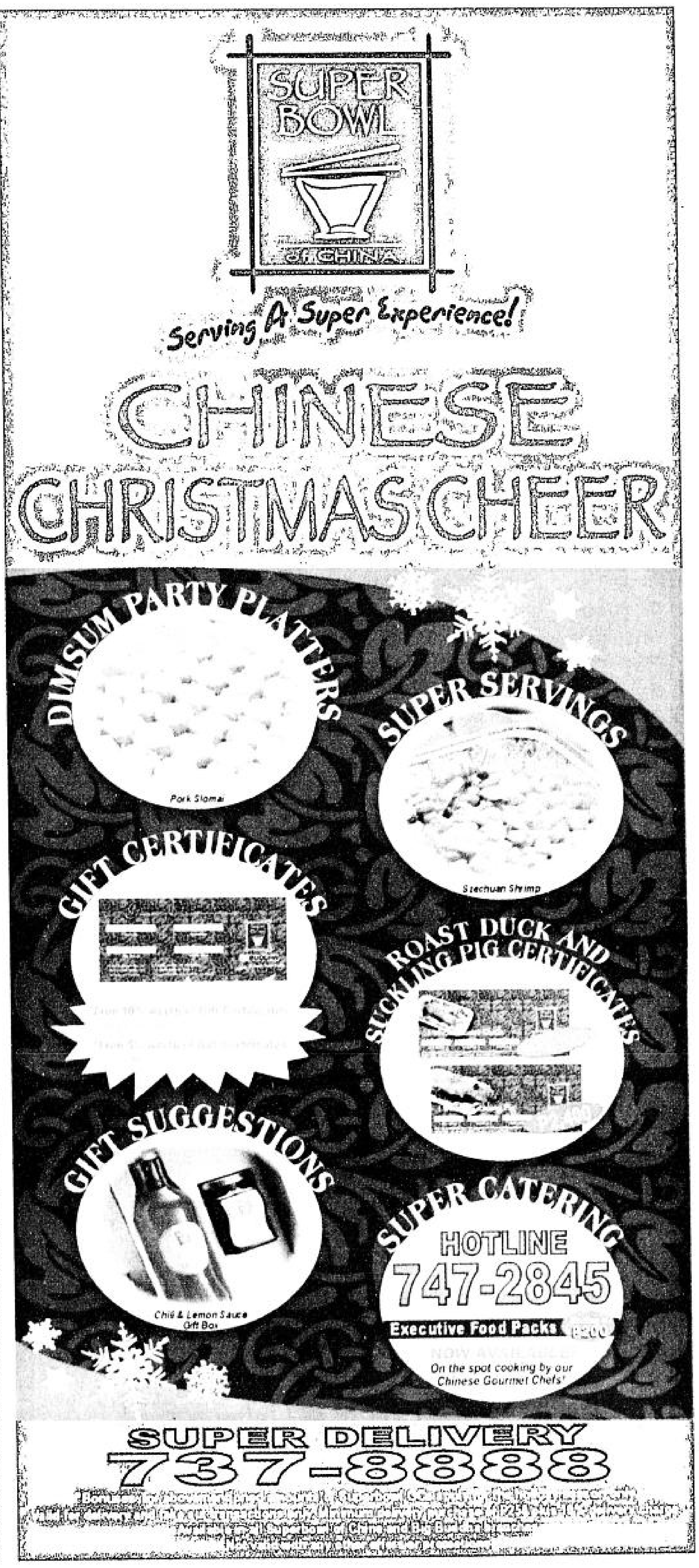
Kelley quotes a divorced daughter-in-law of Bush, Sharon Smith Bush (former wife of Neil Bush, son of George H. W.), as declaring: "This is a family of alcoholism, drug addiction, and even schizophrenia." Also, on at least two instances, of adultery.

The black sheep of the family was James S. Bush, brother of George H. W., who was disowned because he married and divorced many times, something the Bushes strongly disapprove of. Accused of embezzlement, James, an alcoholic, fled to other countries and ended up in the Philippines.

There, as a US consular officer reported, he was "living with a Filipino street woman he had met in a bar." Impoverished, crippled, almost blind, the unfortunate James died of lung

THE DISH/ E3


ARROW
WOMAN
The Podium
SM City Southmall
SM City Manila
SM City Sucat Annex
SM City San Lazaro
SM City North Edsa Annex
SM City Fairview
Sta. Lucia East
Shop in shops [illegible] stan's Tower & Rustan's Alabang Town Center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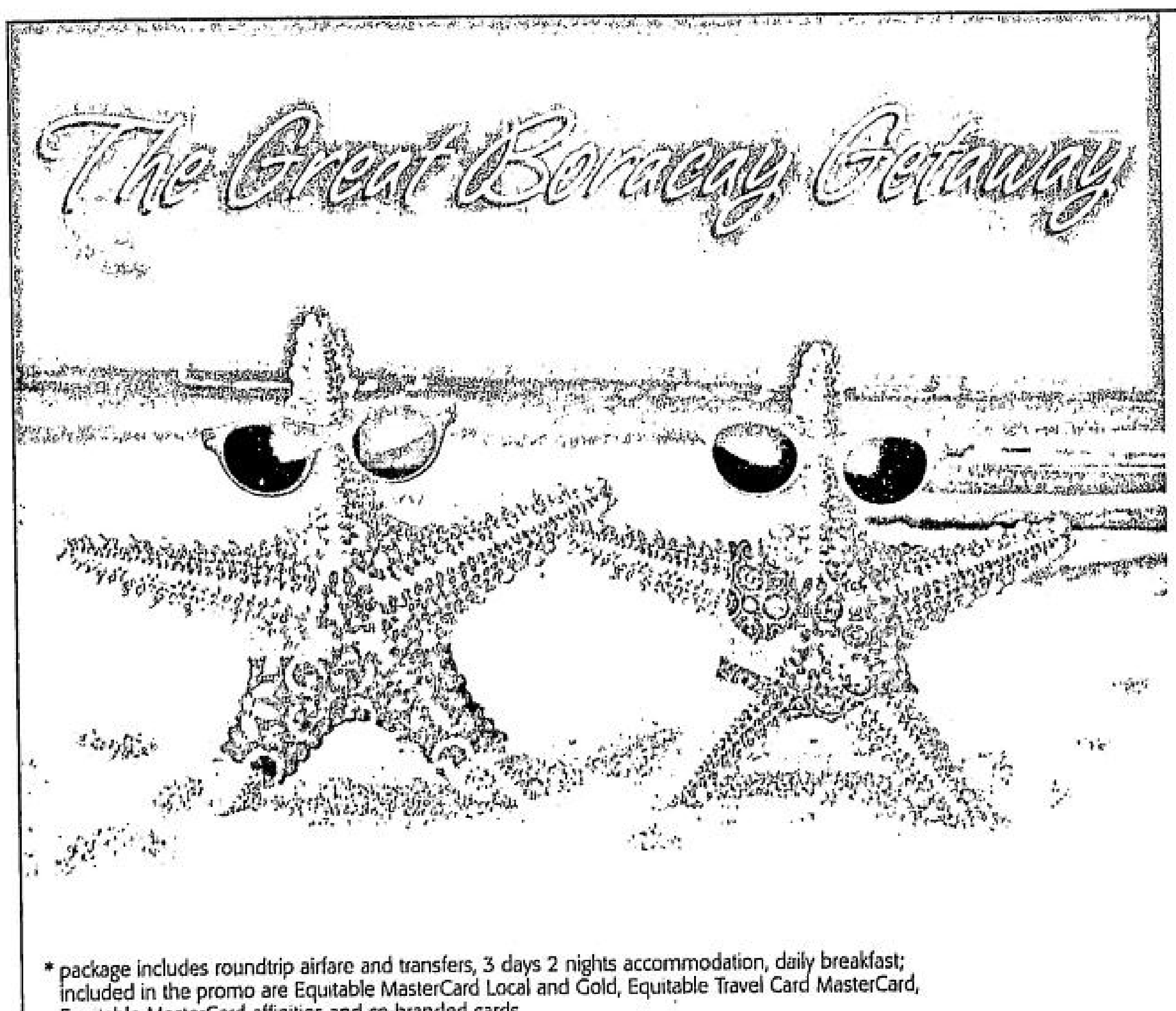
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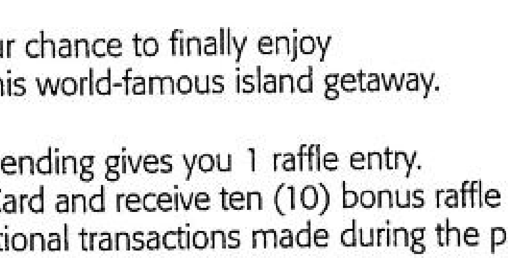
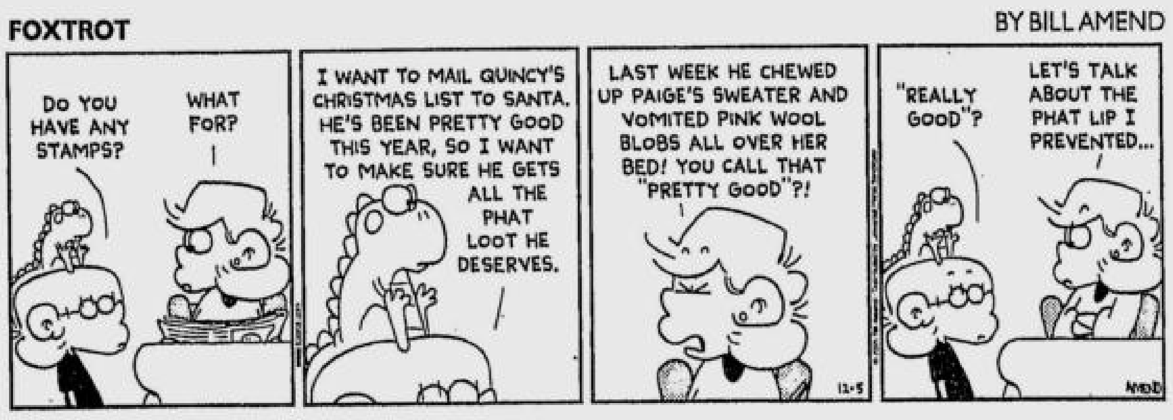


* package includes roundtrip airfare and transfers, 3 days 2 nights accommodation, daily breakfast; included in the promo are Equitable MasterCard Local and Gold, Equitable Travel Card MasterCard, Equitable MasterCard affinities and co-branded cards.

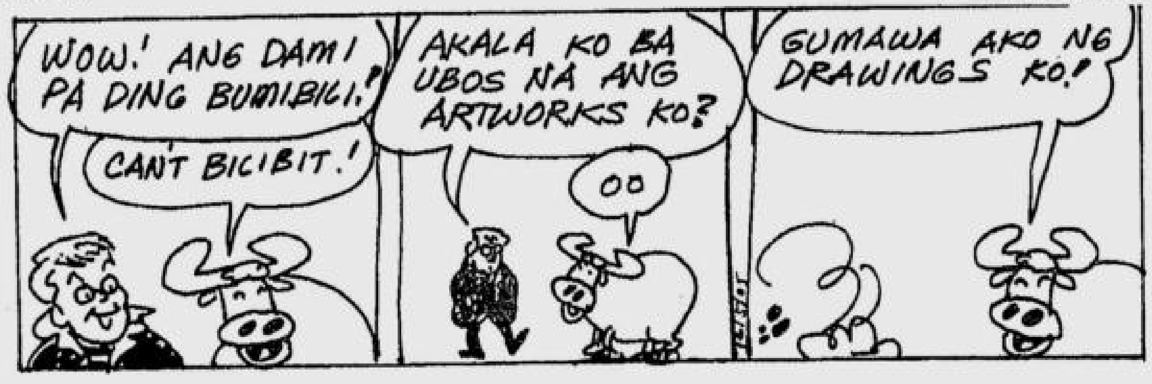
See flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5639, Series of 2005.

ROLCAIR

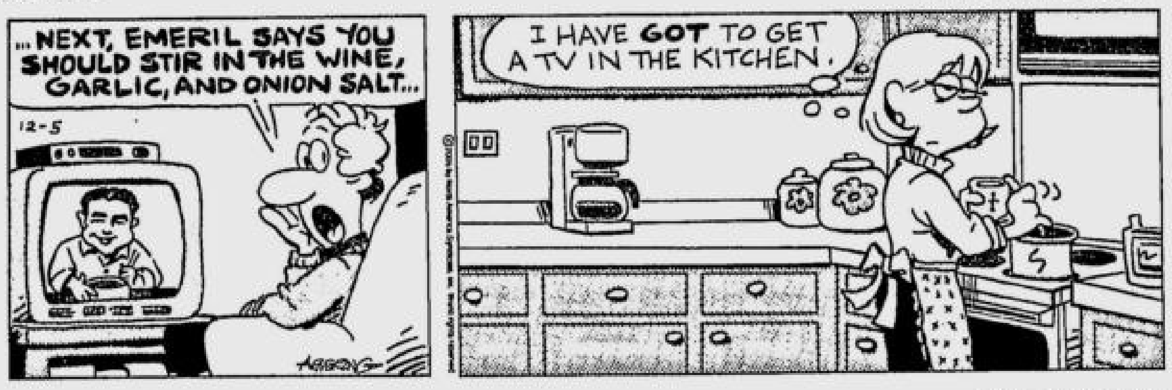
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


DO YOU HAVE ANY STAMPS?
WHAT FOR?
I WANT TO MAIL QUINCY'S CHRISTMAS LIST TO SANTA. HE'S BEEN PRETTY GOOD THIS YEAR, SO I WANT TO MAKE SURE HE GETS ALL THE PHAT LOOT HE DESERVES.
LAST WEEK HE CHEWED UP PAIGE'S SWEATER AND VOMITED PINK WOOL BLOBS ALL OVER HER BED! YOU CALL THAT "PRETTY GOOD"?!
12-5
"REALLY GOOD"?
LET'S TALK ABOUT THE PHAT LIP I PREVENTED...
AMEND

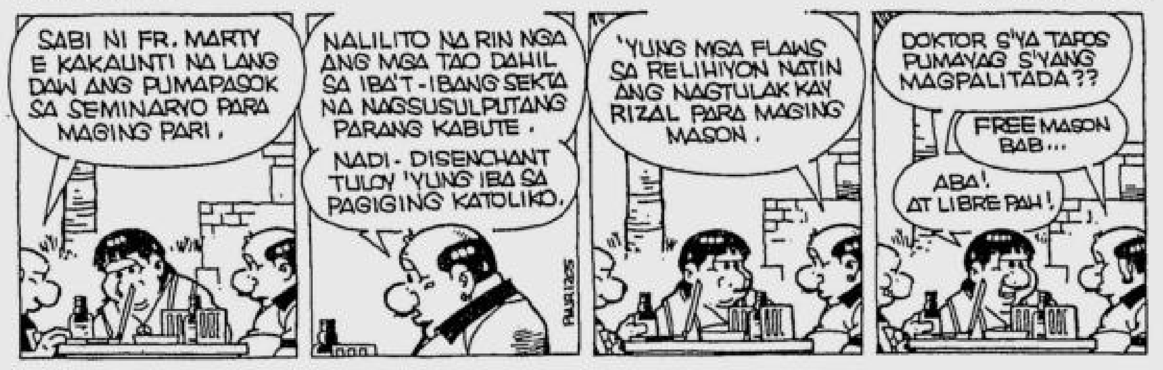
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


WOW! ANG DAMI PA DING BUMIBILI!
CAN'T BILIBIT!
AKALA KO BA UBOS NA ANG ARTWORKS KO?
OO
GUMAWA AKO NG DRAWINGS KO!

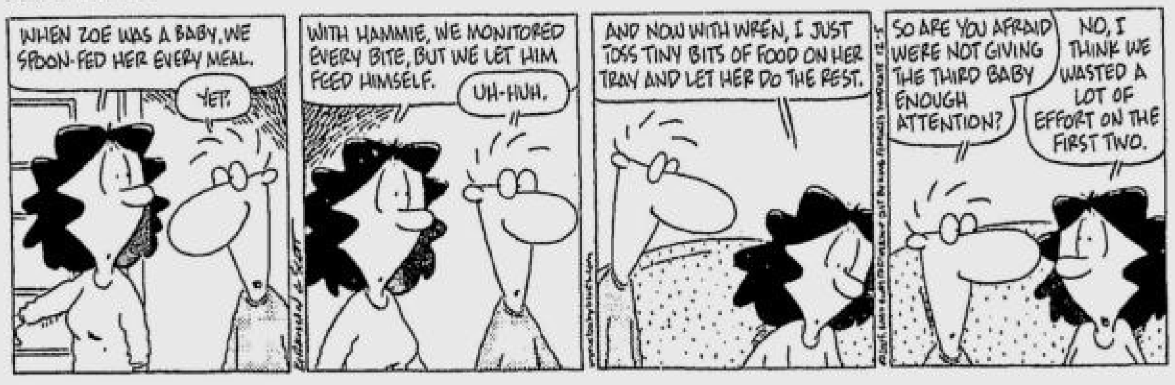
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


...NEXT, EMERIL SAYS YOU SHOULD STIR IN THE WINE, GARLIC, AND ONION SALT...
12-5
I HAVE GOT TO GET A TV IN THE KITCHEN.
ARMSTRONG

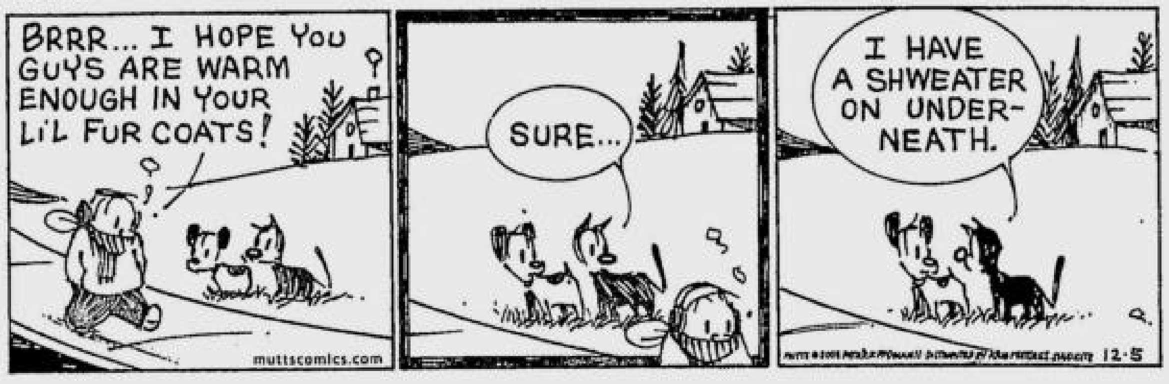
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


SABI NI FR. MARTY E KAKAUNTI NA LANG DAW ANG PUMAPASOK SA SEMINARYO PARA MAGING PARI.
NALILITO NA RIN NGA ANG MGA TAO DAHIL SA IBA'T-IBANG SEKTA NA NAGSUSULPUTANG PARANG KABUTE.
NADI-DISENCHANT TULOY 'YUNG IBA SA PAGIGING KATOLIKO.
'YUNG MGA FLAWS SA RELIHIYON NATIN ANG NAGTULAK KAY RIZAL PARA MAGING MASON.
DOKTOR S'YA TAPOS PUMAYAG S'YANG MAGPALITADA??
FREE MASON BAB...
ABA! AT LIBRE PAH!

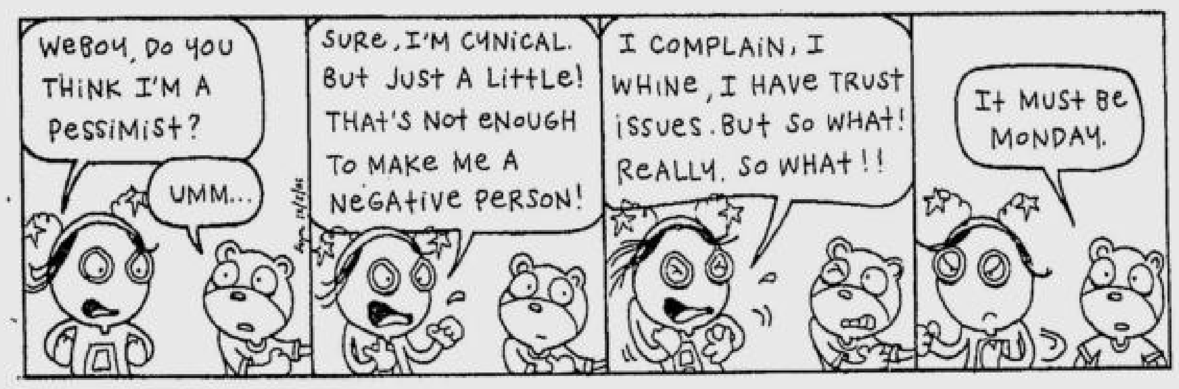
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WHEN ZOE WAS A BABY, WE SPOON-FED HER EVERY MEAL.
YEP.
WITH HAMMIE, WE MONITORED EVERY BITE, BUT WE LET HIM FEED HIMSELF.
UH-HUH.
AND NOW WITH WREN, I JUST TOSS TINY BITS OF FOOD ON HER TRAY AND LET HER DO THE REST.
SO ARE YOU AFRAID WE'RE NOT GIVING THE THIRD BABY ENOUGH ATTENTION?
NO, I THINK WE WASTED A LOT OF EFFORT ON THE FIRST TWO.

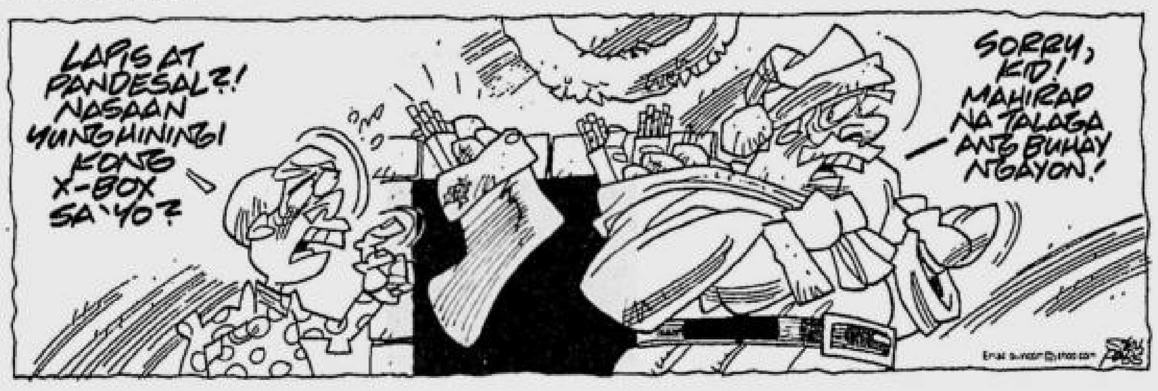
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BRRR... I HOPE YOU GUYS ARE WARM ENOUGH IN YOUR LI'L FUR COATS!
SURE...
I HAVE A SHWEATER ON UNDER-NEATH.
muttscomics.com
12-5

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WEBOY, DO YOU THINK I'M A PESSIMIST?
UMM...
SURE, I'M CYNICAL. BUT JUST A LITTLE! THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE ME A NEGATIVE PERSON!
I COMPLAIN, I WHINE, I HAVE TRUST ISSUES. BUT SO WHAT! REALLY, SO WHAT!!
IT MUST BE MONDAY.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


LAPIS AT PANDESAL?! NASAAN YUNG HININGI KONG X-BOX SA'YO?
SORRY, KID! MAHIRAP NA TALAGA ANG BUHAY NGAYON!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're intelligent and determined. You have the perseverance to attain your long-term goals. Paradoxically, you are both conservative and rebellious, but you are never dull. Many look to you as an authority on something. You will always need a strong home base. Increased solitude in the year ahead will help you learn something important.

Birthdate of: Walt Disney, animator/business legend; Frankie Muniz, actor; Joan Didion, writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): From 1994 until 2003, you practically reinvented yourself! You know this. Now you're trying to figure out what you really want to be when you grow up.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your life has changed since 1999. What you have to do now is secure your home base. Give yourself an anchor in the world. Buy, sell, fix up, repair, renovate—something.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Ever since 2001, you've been in a new sandbox. In the next two years, many of you will have a residential move, a job change or both. You're going places!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're working hard for your money this year. Many of you will be involved more than usual with children, the entertainment world, the hospitality industry or professional sports.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You've been giving up a lot lately. In fact, for some of you, this is still going on. One thing you can count on, however, is a lovely year ahead with home, family, real estate and domestic matters.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): In the next 18 months, most of you will feel more optimistic and happier. The details will differ according to your own lives, but the overall result will be the same. More joy!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Most of you will definitely earn more money in the next 18 months. That's good, because you sure like to buy beautiful things!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Now that Jupiter is in your sign for the first time in 12 years, you feel happier! Opportunities and important people easily come your way now. You're a good-luck magnet.

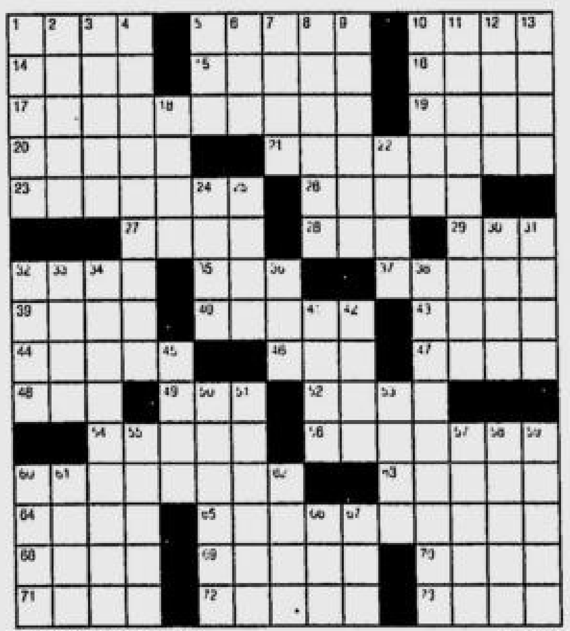
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Continue to prepare for about 18 months ahead, which will be a time of harvest for you. You can really clean up then!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're definitely looking at a popular year ahead. Join clubs. Accept invitations. Be friendly with others. It's a good time to form partnerships in the next 18 months.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your career is unusually favored this year. Your reputation among your peers will be excellent. Opportunities to improve your good name will abound.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): The year ahead has wonderful educational opportunities for you. You can travel, and make great strides with publishing, the media, the law and medicine.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL
12/5/05

ACROSS
1 Certain
5 Profoundly disturbing
10 Lawyers: abbr.
14 Desirable job
15 18th-century Corsican patriot
16 Greater omentum
17 Lineman's output?
19 Half of DII
20 Nucleus of personnel
21 Took notice of
23 Excited
26 Back-country
27 Achy and tender
28 Compass pt.
29 Lamb's mom
32 Glad rags
35 Come by
37 Cornered
39 Malaria symptom
40 Poem's final stanza
43 Went by car
44 Hold tight
46 Title of respect
47 Allies' WWII opponent
48 "And I Love __"
49 Corn unit
52 Calif. cops
54 Hang loosely
56 Shrill cries
60 Mocking
63 Scoundrel
64 Persia, now
65 Lineman's spread?
68 Sponsorship: var.
69 Former North Carolina senator
70 Dance of the '60s
71 Enameled metalware
72 Eye infections
73 Manuscript enc.

DOWN
1 Small spot
2 Forearm bones
3 Red-faced
4 Some female rulers
5 PFC's address
6 Bankroll
7 Two squared
8 Stomach disorders
9 Test paper?
10 Capital of Ghana
11 Lineman's lures' location?
12 Bulrush
13 Lost traction
18 Make over
22 Location
24 Push for
25 Ball-shaped hammerhead
30 Dry ravine in Africa
31 Face features
32 Dash dial
33 Leer at
34 Lineman's protection?
36 VCRs' go-withs
38 Exchanges of sorts
41 Lubricates
42 Contemporary Babylonia
45 Shooter ammo
50 Highest points
51 Go back
53 Contented murmur
55 Washer cycle
57 Greek marketplace
58 Beauts
59 Marsh grass
60 Food regimen
61 Therefore
62 Green state?
66 Even score
67 USNA grad

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

A	R	A	L	S	E	A	■	S	T	O	R	A	G	E
R	E	T	I	N	A	L	■	T	E	N	U	R	E	S
M	A	S	C	O	T	S	■	P	A	T	I	E	N	T
A	L	T	E	R	S	■	R	E	S	O	N	A	T	E
D	I	A	N	E	■	B	I	T	■	P	E	R	I	L
A	S	K	S	■	R	E	P	E	L	■	D	U	L	L
S	T	E	E	P	E	N	■	R	O	T	■	G	E	E
■	■	■	S	O	W	■	■	■	B	A	D	■	■	■
H	A	S	■	W	E	B	■	T	E	R	E	S	A	S
A	T	O	M	■	D	A	R	E	S	■	S	A	L	E
S	L	U	E	S	■	L	E	T	■	B	E	L	L	E
H	A	N	D	H	O	L	D	■	C	A	R	V	E	D
I	N	D	I	A	N	A	■	P	O	S	T	A	G	E
S	T	E	A	M	E	D	■	I	N	T	E	G	E	R
H	A	R	N	E	S	S	■	P	E	E	R	E	S	S

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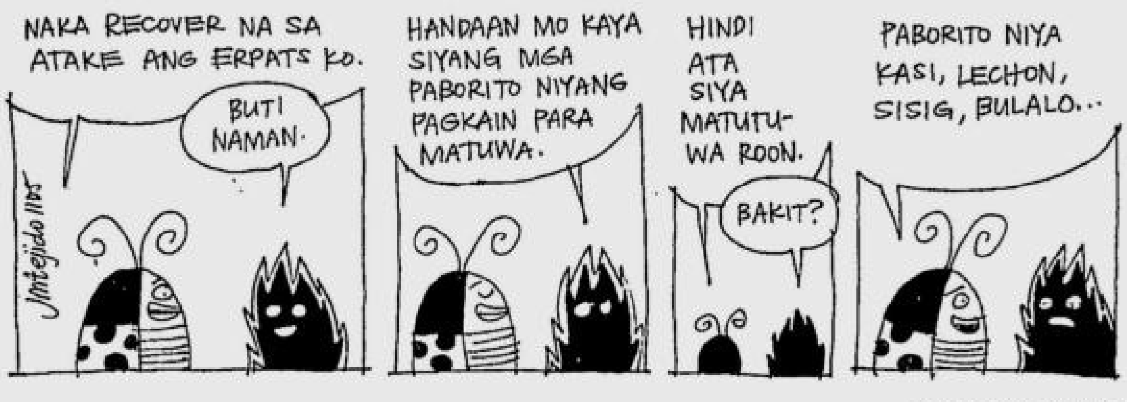
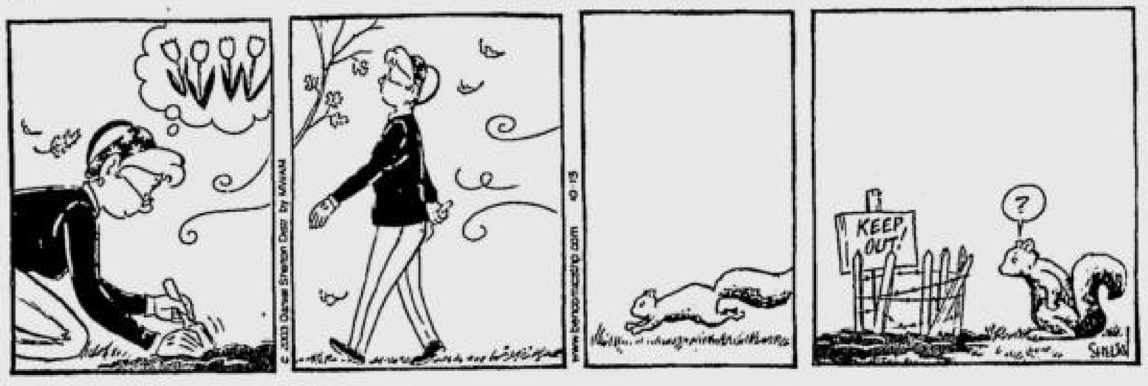
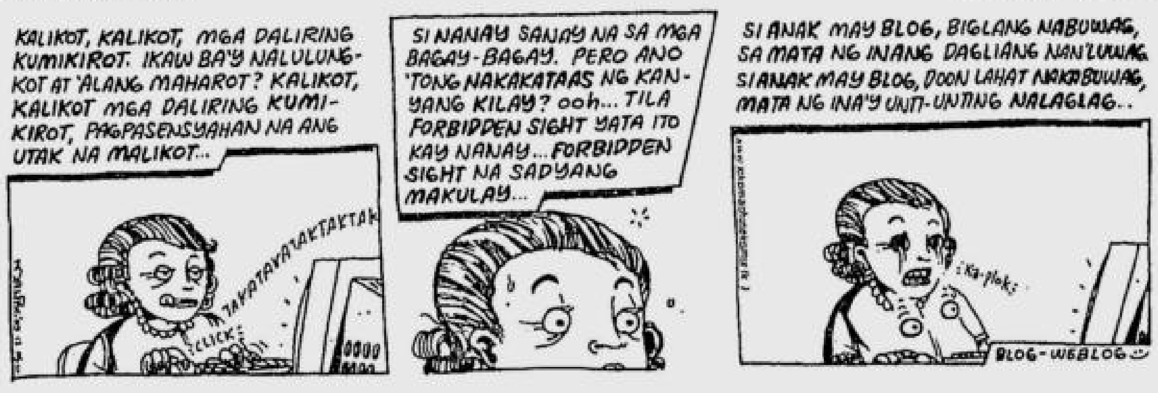
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAKA RECOVER NA SA ATAKE ANG ERPATS KO.
BUTI NAMAN.
HANDAAN MO KAYA SIYANG MGA PABORITO NIYANG PAGKAIN PARA MATUWA.
HINDI ATA SIYA MATUTUWA ROON.
BAKIT?
PABORITO NIYA KASI, LECHON, SISIG, BULALO...

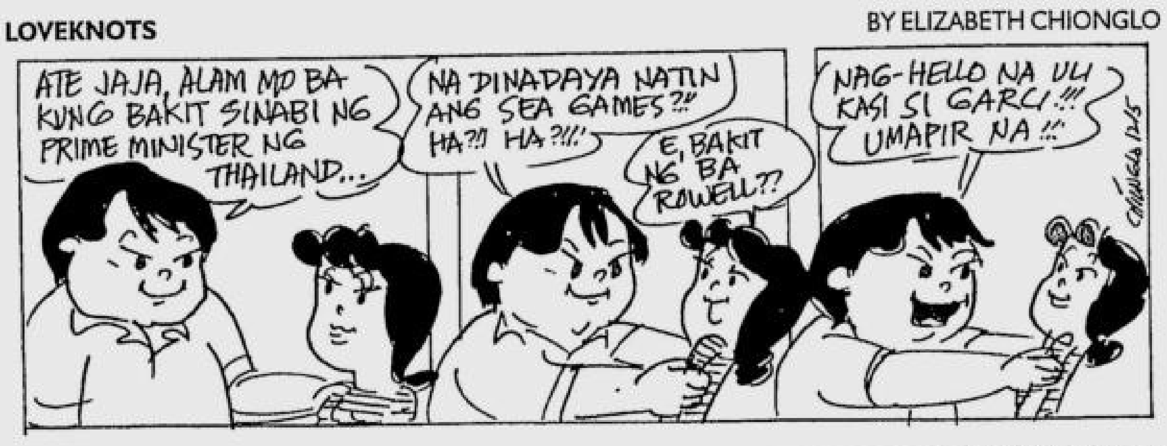
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


KEEP OUT!
?
SHELTON

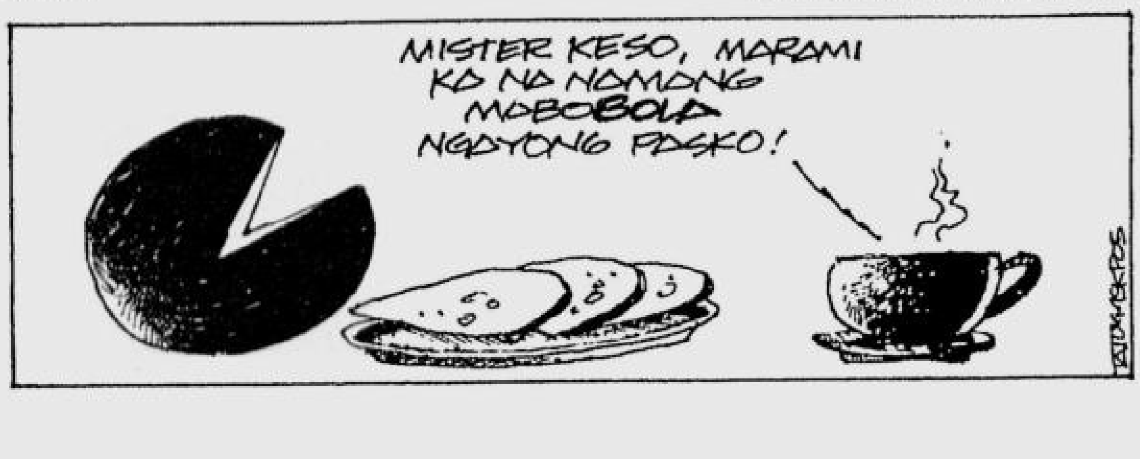
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

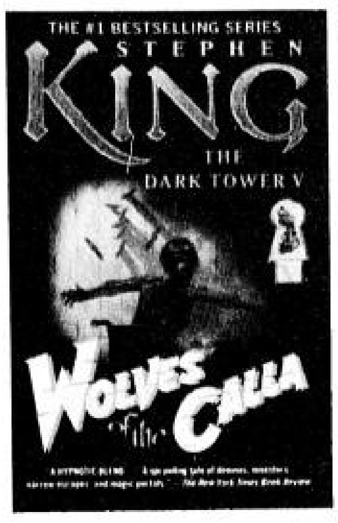

KALIKOT, KALIKOT, MGA DALIRING KUMIKIROT. IKAW BA'Y NALULUNGKOT AT 'ALANG MAHAROT? KALIKOT, KALIKOT MGA DALIRING KUMIKIROT, PAGPASENSYAHAN NA ANG UTAK NA MALIKOT...
TAKATAKATAKTAKTAK
CLICK
SI NANAY SANAY NA SA MGA BAGAY-BAGAY. PERO ANO 'TONG NAKAKATAAS NG KANYANG KILAY? ooh... TILA FORBIDDEN SIGHT YATA ITO KAY NANAY... FORBIDDEN SIGHT NA SADYANG MAKULAY...
SI ANAK MAY BLOG, BIGLANG NABUWAG, SA MATA NG INANG DAGLIANG NANLUWAG. SI ANAK MAY BLOG, DOON LAHAT NAKABUWAG, MATA NG INA'Y UNTI-UNTING NALAGLAG..
Ka-plok
BLOG-WEBLOG

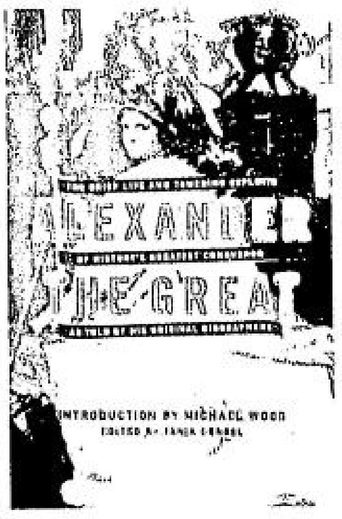
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

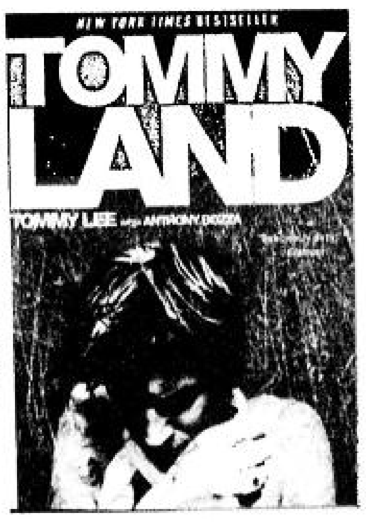

ATE JAJA, ALAM MO BA KUNG BAKIT SINABI NG PRIME MINISTER NG THAILAND...
NA DINADAYA NATIN ANG SEA GAMES?!" HA?!! HA?!!!
E, BAKIT NG BA ROWELL??
NAG-HELLO NA ULI KASI SI GARCI!!! UMAPIR NA!!!
CHIONGLO 12-5

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MISTER KESO, MARAMI KA NA NAMANG MABOBOLA NGAYONG PASKO!







Recommended reads

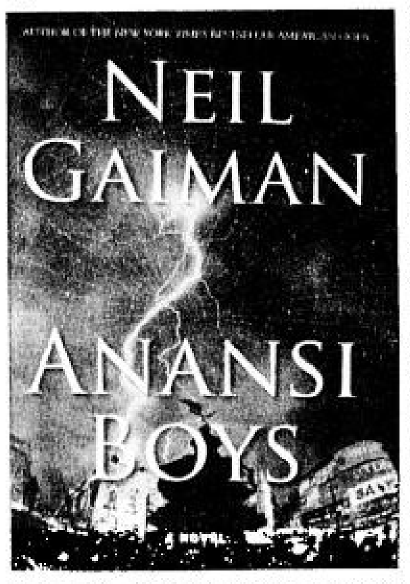
"ALEXANDER THE GREAT" IS A BRIEF narrative on towering exploits of one of history's greatest conqueror, as told by his original biographers.

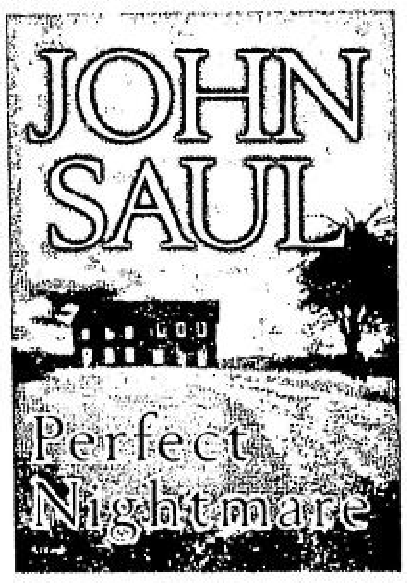
Comprising selections from classical works such as Arrian's "The Campaigns of Alexander," Quintus Curtius Rufus' "The History of Alexander" and Plutarch's "Alexander," this book paints a definitive portrait of history's golden boy, the ultimate hero endowed with youth, intellect and beauty who pursued an extraordinary destiny, but only to burn out too soon.

"Tommy Land" by Tommy Lee with Anthony Bozza is the New York Times best-selling autobiography. It vibrates with Tommy Lee's crazy energy. He not only paints readers with a picture of his psychedelic life, he even claims he can show you how it smells.

Detailing his heady days with the Motley Crue band and his rollercoaster marriages with Heather Locklear and Pamela Anderson, this book isn't your typical journey in a straight line from Day One to Day Now. As what Tommy Lee himself said, "This book is my truth."

"Anansi Boys" by Neil Gaiman gives us a mythology for a modern age—complete with dark prophecy, family dysfunction, mystical deceptions, and killer birds. It tells the story of Fat Charlie, and how his life starts getting very interesting when he finds out his dead father is the trickster spider-god Anansi, who is able to overturn the social order and baffle the devil.





In John Saul's "Perfect Nightmare," every parent's nightmare becomes reality for Kara Marshall when her daughter Lindsay vanishes from her bedroom during the night. Although the police suspect the girl is just another moody teenage runaway, Lindsay's recent eerie claim—that someone invaded her room when the house was opened to prospective buyers—drives Kara to fear the worst: a nameless, faceless stalker has walked the halls of her home in search of more than a place to live.

In Stephen King's "The Dark Tower V: Wolves of the Calla," Roland Deschain and his *ka-tet* are beatring southeast through the forests of Mid-World on their quest for the Dark Tower, and their path takes them to the outskirts of Calla Bryn Sturgis.

But beyond the tranquil farm town, the wolves of the Thunderclap are coming. To resist them is to risk all, but these are odds the gunslingers are used to. Their guns, however, will not be enough.

All books available at National Book Store.

Love, health and spirituality in December issue of Mr. & Ms.

SHARON CUNETA AND SEN. Francis Pangilinan are the power couple on the cover of the December issue of Mr. & Ms. They appear together with kids KC, Frankie and Miel.

Parents Kiko and Sharon share their views on raising kids.

"Parenting is a shared responsibility. Sharon and I are learning parenthood along the way, hands-on, and we are enjoying every minute of it," the senator said.

Meanwhile, Christian and Solita Monsod tell the story of their courtship, first kiss, first few years as a couple, and success as parents to six kids.

Mr. & Ms. bills itself as "The Supermonthly of the Body, Mind and Spirit," so it features families and individuals with inspiring stories.

Mr.&Ms.
KIKO PANGILINAN & SHARON CUNETA

As spirituality is a key to success, Mr. & Ms. focuses on the powerful "Marian Spirit and the Divine Conspiracy," written by Rosario Melchor, from her book of the same title, about Russia's religious transformation.

There is also a feature on the Mystery of the Virgin Birth and other Christmas tales.

For couples planning to tie the knot, the Mr. & Ms. Bridal Supplement features some love and sex magic that might tickle you silly.

Would you like to know of potions to attract your mate? A tip to bring in your desired wishes through lovemaking? Do you want to have a directory to help you plan for your wedding? Let the December issue help you.

On the health front, iridologist Elizabeth Micaller talks about a person's eyes as being windows to fitness. And if you are not feeling well, a story on flower essences might help you treat your illnesses.

Columnist Jaime Licauco discusses the Filipino's psychic consciousness and writer Frances Gloria tackles regression and progression as tools to healing.

Psychic Madame Annie advises readers to "be happy" this Christmas and the coming Year of the Dog.

To learn more about love, health, and spirituality, read Mr. & Ms.'s December issue.

NCCA to launch 'Ubod New Authors Series'

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) through the National Committee on Literary Arts (NCLA) will formally launch the "Ubod New Authors Series," which features 40 of Philippine literati's newest gems, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Main Lobby, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, on Dec. 6 at 6 p.m.

The series consists of 50-page chapbooks (5½" x 8½") of selected poems, fiction, creative nonfiction and drama in English, Filipino and other Philippine languages written by young and promising Filipino writers. *Ubod* is the Tagalog and Cebuano word for "heart extracted out of palm or bamboo."

Presidential assistant on culture and NCCA executive director Cecile Guidote Alvarez, CCP vice president and artistic director Fernando C. Josef and NCLA head Joselito Zulueta will present the first copies of "Ubod" to the authors.

An overview of the series will be presented by Ricky de Ungria, UP Mindanao chancellor and former head of the NCLA from 1998 to 2001, when "Ubod" was first hatched.

There will also be remarks from Gemino Abad, general editor of "Ubod," and Herminio Beltran, head of the CCP Office on Literature and former head of the NCLA from 2001 to 2004, during which "Ubod" started to be implemented.

The writers on the series are Sid Hildawa, Naya Valdellon, Gabriela Lee, Raul Moldez, Rosendo Makabali and Ralph Semino Galan for poetry in English; Joseph Salazar, Edgar Calabia Samar, Richard Gappi, Joselito de los Reyes, Joselyn Floresca, Enrico Torralba, Marieta Culibao and Jema Pamintuan for poetry in Filipino; and Santiago Villafania and Estellito Baylon Jacob for poetry in Bicolano.

The series also features Anna Felicia Sanchez, Peter Mayshle, Ian Casocot, Mildred Malaki and Arifa Jamil for fiction in English; Alwyn Aguirre, Vlademeir Gonzales, Alvin Yapan, Maricris Calilung and Ernesto Carandang Jr. for fiction in Filipino; Julio Belmes for fiction in Iluko; Januar Enero Yap for fiction in Cebuano; Genvieve Asenjo for fiction in Kinaray-a; and John Barrios for fiction in Aklanon.

Also included on the series are the works of Georgina Verdolaga and Maryanne Moll for creative nonfiction in English; Debbie Ann Tan, Christopher Gozum and Liza Magtoto for drama in English; and Bay-viz Canleon, Edward Perez, Dennis Marasigan and Chris Martinez for drama in Filipino.

Book on family business

"SETTING FRAMEWORKS: Family Business and Strategic Management" by Elfren Sicangco Cruz is now available, published by Anvil Publishing.

Cruz is a professor at the De La Salle University Professional Schools Inc. Graduate School of Business, where he has been teaching strategic management since 1992. He also writes a regular column in Business World.

He held various capacities in government during the Cory Aquino administration, among them, as head of the Presidential Management Staff and governor of the Metro Manila Commission.

The dish on Bush

From page E1

cancer at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City in 1978 at the age of 77.

His death was "a great relief to all of us," declared George H. W.

Then there was the strange case of Prescott Bush III, a first cousin of President George W. Bush, who walked out of his bride during their honeymoon in Europe, "and she never saw him again." Prescott's parents arranged a discreet divorce on grounds of abandonment. Prescott was later diagnosed as schizophrenic.

Many Bushes and their wives and relatives, with their shenanigans, vices and wheeling and dealing, figure in this book. By the 1980s, when George H. W. was vice president, the transactions of the family members expanded and their clients included corporations in Brazil and some Asian countries, including the Philippines.

These transactions "left in their wake the jiggery-poker of failed banks, fleeced stockbrokers, convictions, and lawsuits charging mismanagement, stock manipulation, and fraud."

However, the emphasis of the book, understandably, is on three major personalities who represent three generations of the Bush dynasty: Prescott S. Bush, who became a senator; his son George H. W. Bush, 41st US president; and his grandson George W. Bush, 43rd (and current) US president.

Although an alcoholic and a tyrant at home, Prescott comes off rather well in this book, as he represented a dying breed of the 1950s—"a moderate Republican." This cannot be said of the son and grandson, as the author points out, with the current US president advocating "an extreme brand of Republican politics."

On the extracurricular front, George H. W. had his dalliances while he was vice president, and even before, when he was a congressman: "He chose his other involvements carefully (usually out of town) so as not to threaten his marriage. Then along came Jennifer Fitzgerald, who became his secretary and became so much more."

The long drawn-out affair caused his wife Barbara to leave him for three months (he was then US ambassador to China), burn her letters, and to suffer severe depression almost to the point of suicide.

George H. W. was not the only member of the family to play around. His only sister, Nancy Bush Ellis, had a torrid affair with historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. of Camelot (Kennedy) fame.

George H. W. and his son George W. excelled in athletics (although the latter was considered a "bully boy"), but were mediocre students at the elite Andover Academy and the Ivy League Yale University. George W., in fact, finished at the bottom of his class.

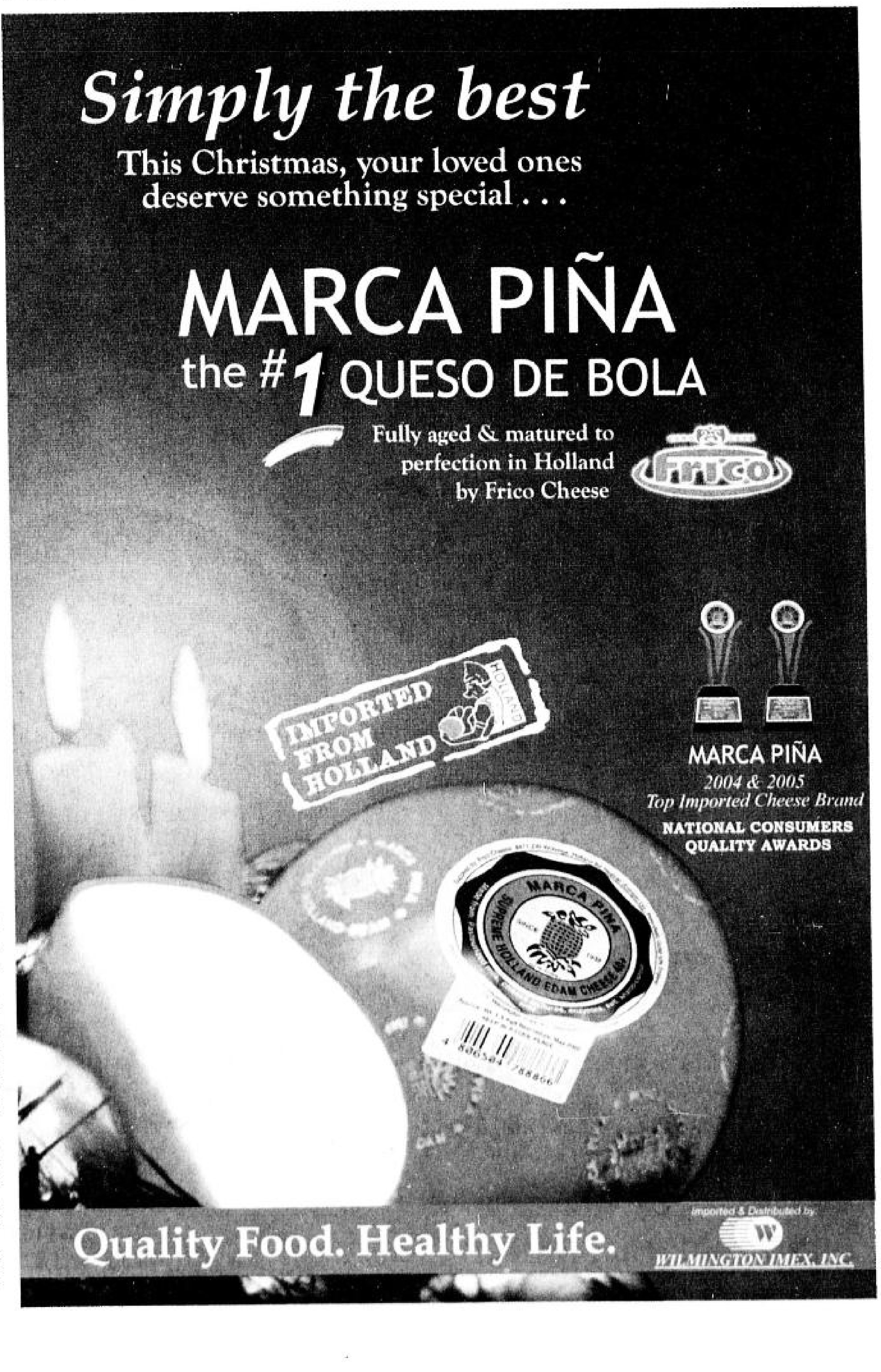
At Andover, George W.'s first assignment in English was to write an essay on an emotional experience. Since he had written the word *tears* several times, he scouted around for a synonym in the thesaurus his mother had given him. And thus he wrote: "And the *lacerates* (italics mine) ran down my cheeks."

It turned out that *lacerates* was not a noun at all but the verb for *tears* (as in "tearing apart"), a different meaning altogether. The teacher gave him "a big red zero" and scrawled a note: "DISGRACEFUL (all caps the teacher's). See me immediately."

Less amusing are some of the reminiscences and opinions of the Yale batchmates of the current US president. Ken White (Yale 1968) opines that "he [Bush] was the last guy you'd ever expect to see in the White House… My wife remembers him roaring drunk one night at a party with a date doing the alligator; that was some sort of dance back then when you fell to the floor on all fours and started rolling around. It's hard to see a guy like that holding the highest office in the land."

From Tom Wilmer, another Yalie: "Georgie, as we called him then, has absolutely no intellectual curiosity about anything. This guy has no concept of complex issues… He's a simple-minded zealot and—God help us all—he's now the guy with his finger on the button."

That finger on the button led to, among other events, the almost daily carnage and the continuing violence in Iraq today.


Simply the best
This Christmas, your loved ones deserve something special . . .
MARCA PIÑA
the #1 QUESO DE BOLA
Fully aged & matured to perfection in Holland by Frico Cheese
MARCA PIÑA
2004 & 2005
Top Imported Cheese Brand
NATIONAL CONSUMERS QUALITY AWARDS
Quality Food. Healthy Life.
Imported & Distributed by
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THE WRITER'S WORLD

Homecoming letter to myself

By Joel B. Tan

After nearly 30 years, a Fil-Am comes home

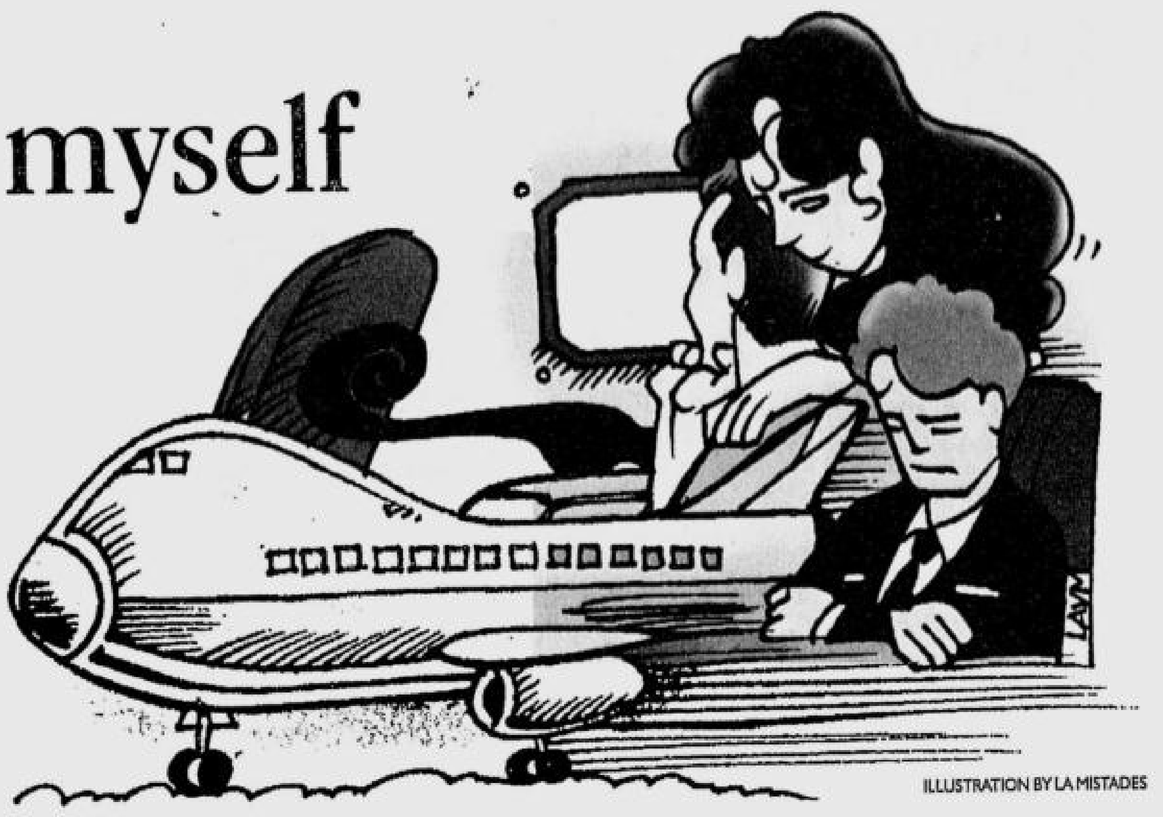


ILLUSTRATION BY LA MISTADES

1976. AMERICA IS 200 YEARS old, and Manila International Airport is sweltering. Heat, flies, tsinelas shuffles, teenaged soldiers, taped boxes. Your *yaya* lumbers behind with your luggage while Mama makes final arrangements for your lone flight to Los Angeles with the airline agent. A crowd squealing with delight hovers around Nora Aunor in sunglasses and a pearl silk blouse. Around the superstar's neck—a white scarf spotted with deep-red blossoms. Your eight-year-old heart flutters. You fall in line and are reminded of communion. Nora's admirers praise her last movie, tell her she's beautiful, not so dark in person, asks if Tirso Cruz III is waiting nearby, if she and Vilma are on speaking terms, and if she could sing for them in her award-winning voice a *kundiman*.

You fixate on her *nunal*, that trademark mole of hers above her lip. You wonder what it might be like to be that mole. To be a small part, a black dot adhered to someone so venerated, so loved. When it is your turn, you are too shy to look up at her face. Instead, you take her hand, the color of polished wood, and bring it to your forehead. *Mano po*. And the loving mob giggles with delight. She cups her hand over your ear and whispers, "Travel safely, Totoy. And don't stay away too long." Your *yaya* snaps a picture, hauls you toward the tarmac.

Before you board the Pan Am flight from Manila to Los Angeles, Mama hands you a diary, each page for every day that you two will be apart. At the bottom of each page—handwritten notes, daily reminders: Be a good boy; listen to your grandparents; try not to complain too much about America; practice your handwriting; don't overdo it with the chocolate; always remember: San Pedro is watching you. You trade good-byes for now, not knowing you will not return to Manila until 29 years later, at age 37—the same age your mother was when she left the Philippines to join you in Los Angeles.

2005. You are leaving your San Francisco home to go home. Finally: Manila.

You aren't traveling back alone, though. Your Americano lover will join you. From SFO to Ninoy Aquino International Airport, two round-trip tickets that, in dollars, total to, coincidentally, the year the Philippine Revolution against Spain broke out. 1896.

Before your lover drifts off to sleep or while he's walking along Mission Street or reading about the world on the MUNI streetcar, he is practicing his Tagalog: *isa, dalawa, tatlo, comport* room (with a "p"), *maraming salamat po*. You explain to him that showing up for appointments on time might—will—embarrass your hosts, that *seguro* in Spanish does not mean the same in Tagalog. You define for him *pakikisama* as a way of belonging to one another and *utang na loob* as a debt of gratitude, sometimes for life.

As for you, your Manila childhood is a dream. You remember its pollution, the seasonal changes of fruit (*langka, santol, atis, chico, mangosteen, lansones)*, the thick black sludge of the Pandacan canals, the hand-carved door of your childhood home in Parañaque, and the outlying regions of Manila populated by squatters, thieves and kidnappers. The Manila you've heard about from friends and family exists in the context of endless traffic jams, air-conditioned malls protected by guards carrying machine guns, live sex shows, $10 dollar massage, and the honor and obligation bestowed upon you by relatives who ask you to become the *ninong*, the godfather, of their children, to please, stuff your baggage with Sunkist and chocolates from Target and Costco, Gap jeans, Ralph Lauren perfume ("Not samples, please *lang*!"), Shiraz wine ("We only drink those from Australia or South Africa, not California!"), inflatable beds, water-based lubricant, poetry collection of Anne Sexton...

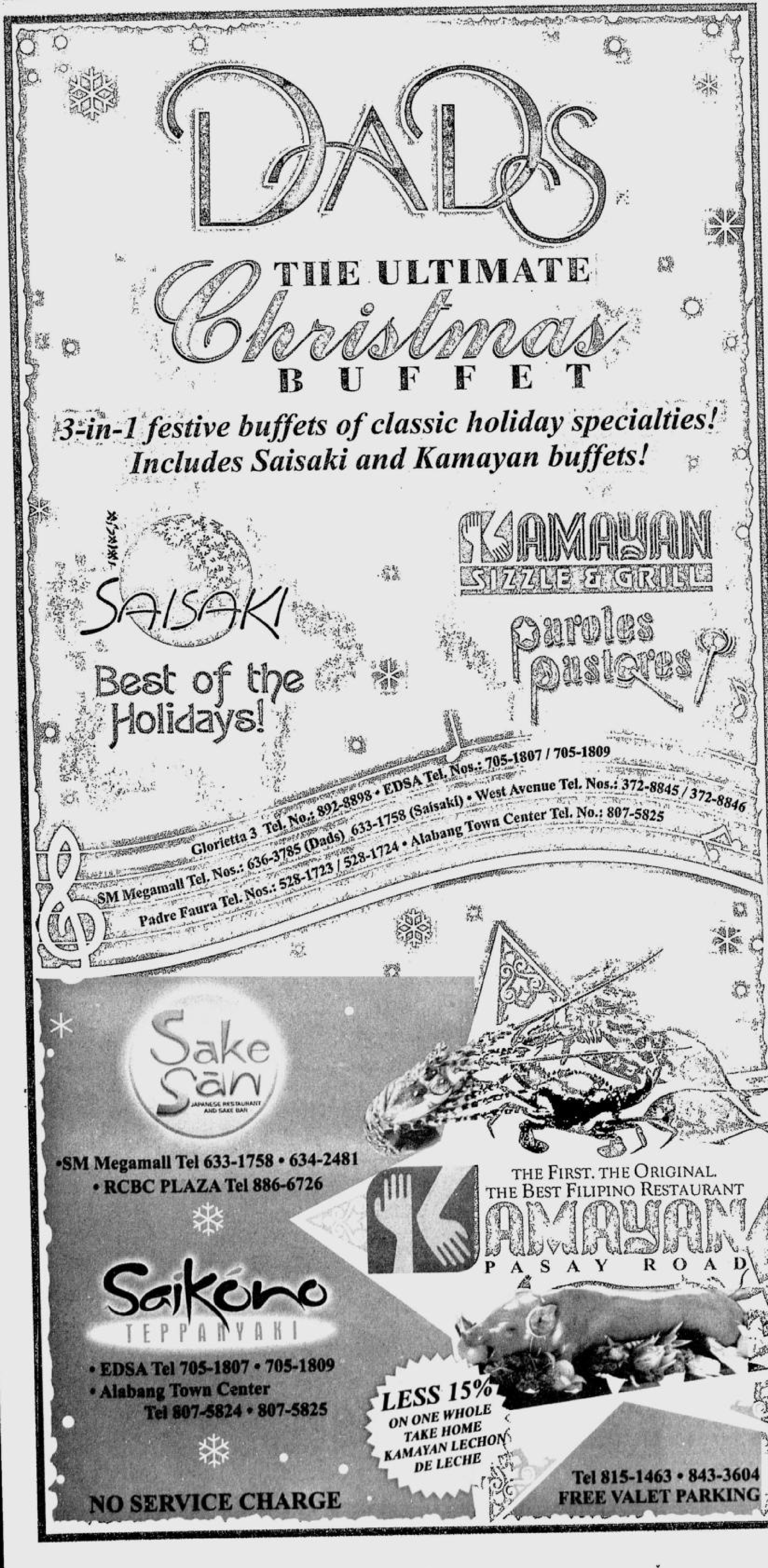
You obey their requests, cram your two *balikbayan*-box allowance with their orders along with jars of body butter, universal chargers, mosquito coils, anti-diarrhea pills, antibiotics, jetlag remedies, and anxieties over reverse culture shock and how long it takes to get over it. For weeks now, you've pored through guidebooks and solicited the advice of friends in an attempt to build a travel itinerary, a *balikbayan*'s "brown ambition tour" schedule—Lake Sebu, Tagaytay, Little Ongpin, Baguio, Luneta Park, etc.

But you simply can't organize your thoughts. Memories and anxieties keep getting in the way.

Mama, now dead for 12 years, counsels you in your dreams, *Hijo*, you can't know what awaits you there. Carry me in your heart and I will guide you, step by step, through the market mazes, the pocked roads, the raucous bursts of vendors and tears of beggars, of starlets with blonde-dyed hair and surgically-enhanced noses, of ghosts, *kapres, duende, diwa*, of ocean resorts with vast fields of broken corals, of Tagaytay horses snorting in the fog, of the heavy cotton of Baguio blankets, of the sad, sad elephants at the Manila Zoo, of Buena Noche and *puto bungbong* with Star margarine and white sugar...

You—we—are finally going home.

The author, Joel Barraquiel Tan, is a writer, director, and AIDS activist. He is the author of a collection of poems, "Monster" (Noice Press), and editor of "Queer Pilipino, Asian, and Pacific Islander (P.A.P.I.) Porn" (Cleis Press). He will deliver the lecture-performance, "For the Love of Lorca: A Reading, Lecture on Poetics, and an Interview (by fellow Fil-Am writer R. Zamora Linmark)," at the audio-visual room of the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas on Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. The lecture is open to the public.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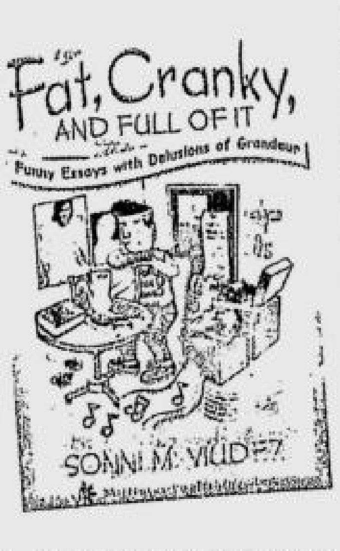
Macho humor book

MILFLORES PUBLISHING INC. has released "Fat, Cranky, and Full of It: Funny Essays with Delusions of Grandeur," a first book by Sonni M. Viudez.

In his collection of short essays, the author pokes youthful fun at a wide variety of topics—from beauty salons and barbershops to corporal punishment in schools, God's sense of humor, addiction to fried chicken, the tasteless '80s, high-school reunions, New Year's resolutions, and the battle of the sexes.

Viudez is at his funniest when he adopts an unrepentant, revanchist macho attitude toward women—a counterpoint to the recent tomes upon tomes written by flaming feminists. Thereby, he adds mirth to the dialogue between the sexes in our times that are a-changing.


Fat, Cranky, AND FULL OF IT
Funny Essays with Delusions of Grandeur
SONNI M. VIUDEZ

The colorful cover is by Arnold Ramos and the hilarious illustrations are by Elbert Or. The book design is by Zeny Ebalan.

"Fat, Cranky, and Full of It: Funny Essays with Delusions of Grandeur" is available at National Book Store, Power-Books, Books for Less and other major book stores at P320 per copy.

Call 7216431 or e-mail milflores@pacific.net.ph.

2005 World Congress of Financial Executives

December 4-7, 2005 / Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Ayala Center, Makati City, Philippines

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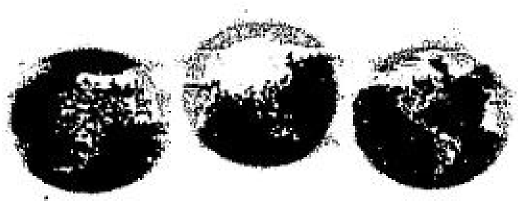
iafei
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTES



Global Markets: Thriving in Shifting Landscapes

By Dr. Conchita L. Manabat
Chairperson, IAFEI

The global marketplace has experienced unprecedented competition, connectivity and complexity in the past few decades. The increasing sophistication of financial operations and the finance function's escalating role in business strategy and corporate success has rapidly transformed the demands on and expectations of the finance executive.

To stay ahead in the competitive landscape, finance executives need a combination of updated financial, strategic and organizational skills, strong business networks and a clear big picture world view. While the Information age has resulted in unprecedented access to real-time global information, it has also unfortunately, led to our being inundated with unfiltered information, with questionable authenticity, reliability and validity. Given this backdrop, finance executives must comprehend global, regional and local trends, interface with peers across the world and anticipate complex global changes in order to thrive in shifting landscapes.

To offer opportunities to finance executives to understand appreciate and meet these very needs, the International Association of Financial Executives Institutes (IAFEI), the world's premier association of associations of finance executives, organizes an annual World Congress for Finance Executives, choosing a different country to host the prestigious event each time.

For the uninitiated, IAFEI is a federation of Financial Executives Institutes of various countries, and is a private, non-profit, non-political organization, domiciled in Switzerland. With more than twenty member institutes comprising more than 130,000 financial executives, IAFEI is the largest global organization of its kind, and operates with the key objectives of promoting networking opportunities for finance executives, building a wider understanding of financial practices worldwide and promoting ethical and best practices of financial management throughout the world.

The IAFEI annual World Congress brings together hundreds of finance professionals, practitioners, academicians and business leaders from across the world and provides a global platform for sharing of authentic information and relevant insights on the world's important financial developments, and drives the promotion of best practices and forging of strong networks.

As current chairperson of IAFEI, I am extremely pleased and proud that the 2005 IAFEI World Congress (IAFEI's 36th) is being hosted in the Philippines, and is expected to bring together more than 500 delegates (comprised of chief finance officers and finance executives representing the top companies in the country) from across the world with participation from developed economies like Germany, Italy, Japan, USA and Singapore to developing economies such as China, Taiwan, India, the Philippines and Thailand.

The 2005 World Congress

Scheduled for December 4-7, 2005 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, the 2005 World Congress has been organized by IAFEI's Philippine member institute, FINEX (Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines).

With a theme of "Global Markets: Thriving in Shifting Landscapes", the 2005 IAFEI World Congress will enable financial executives to hear and learn from leading global, regional and local financial luminaries with a focus on:

- A 'big picture' view - a picture of the emerging and future economic and financial trends, with a special focus on the significance of Asia in a wired world;
- Technical updates and finance best practice insights - a platform for various technical discussions of choice ranging from international accounting and global financial markets to finance best practices and attributes of the global CFO; and
- Common and continuing values - reaffirm the common and continuing values expected of finance professionals, in high ethical standards and corporate governance.

The Congress offers the above through a dynamic schedule of events including daily plenary sessions, numerous technical and round table discussions, exciting social events, pre and post congress activities. Commencing with the key note address being delivered by the President, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, an array of 25 key speakers will share ideas, including Xiao Zhuoji of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; former Philippine President, Fidel Ramos; International Accounting Standards Board Member, Warren McGregor; Chief Political Analyst of Shell UK, Cho Khong; Bank of Thailand Governor, Pridiyathorn Devakula; Nokia Networks' Asia Pacific SVP Rajeev Suri; and Managing Director Morgan Stanley, Gokul Laroia.

A Unique Opportunity

The Congress is not only a unique forum for finance executives globally and locally to meet and interact with peers, access latest thought leadership, receive insights on the emerging trends and global developments, but also an excellent opportunity for the Philippine business marketplace to demonstrate its potential as an investment destination and showcase its sophisticated local industry.

Being only the third time that the Philippines will host a congress in thirty-six years, (the last one being in 1988), the Congress is being touted as one of the most prestigious events for the country this year. I look forward to this educating, exciting gathering of finance professionals' worldwide, and invite you all to participate and reap the benefits.

Dr. Conchita L. Manabat is the Chairperson of C. L. Manabat & Co., the Philippine member firm of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and Chairperson of Capital Markets Development Council. She is also the Chairperson of the International Association of Financial Executives Institutes (IAFEI), the first woman chair in the organization's 36 years of existence.

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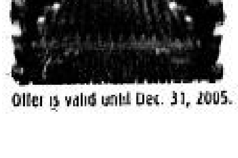

To stay ahead in the competitive landscape, finance executives need a combination of updated financial, strategic and organizational skills, strong business networks and a clear big picture world view

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Special PROJECT
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2005

2005 World Congress of Financial Executives

Messages

Greetings and welcome to the guests and participants to the International Association of Financial Executives Institutes (IAFEI) 2005 World Congress.

Indeed, it is an honor for the Philippines to be chosen as the site of your 36th Congress with the theme, "Global Markets - Thriving in Shifting Financial Landscapes." You will find, as you deliberate on financial developments around the world, that we have much to offer in terms of business and leisure.

The Philippines typifies a shifting landscape. My administration realizes as you do the importance of managing our finances and our fiscal reforms have contributed immensely to our economy's newfound vibrancy. We are keeping the course for an environment more conducive to business, and investors are responding with renewed confidence. Our stock market is robust, and the peso is the best performing currency in the region.

Our country's financial landscape will continue to improve in the years ahead because of our vision of a world-class Philippine economy in twenty years. We are committed to bring down structural barriers to development and build up our nation's capabilities. Among others, we are transforming Manila into a modern metropolis even as we spread development to other centers of growth in the countryside.

I invite financial executives from around the world to join us as we sustain our efforts to build a stronger and more progressive Philippines.

Keeping abreast of global financial developments is vital, especially in today's age of technology and rapid change. As you seek new business opportunities around the world, I ask you to take a closer look into some positive developments in our country.

My warmest congratulations to the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines for holding this event. I wish you all a fruitful congress, and a pleasant stay to all our visiting financial executives.

MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President of the Republic of the Philippines

My best wishes to the distinguished guests and participants of the International Association of Financial Executives Institutes (IAFEI) World Congress to be held on December 4-7, 2005.

This prestigious international event with the timely theme, "GLOBAL MARKETS - Thriving in Shifting Financial Landscapes," is indeed significant as it is held at a most challenging time in our country's history. The Filipinos now stand at the threshold of a new era of sustainable progress considering the implementation of the much-needed economic reforms.

This grand convergence of eminent financial experts from around the world will certainly create a synergy that will be beneficial to the Philippines as well as the whole Asia Pacific region, which hosts a number of emerging markets. Our financial executives will likewise stand to gain immense opportunities to build their capabilities to successfully address the various formidable challenges of a global business environment.

I extend my profound appreciation to the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) for its invaluable contribution to our quest for sustainable national progress.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

NOLI "KABAYAN" L. DE CASTRO
Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines

Greetings to the officers and members of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) for hosting the International Association of Financial Executives Institute (IAFEI) World Congress themed "GLOBAL MARKETS - Thriving In Shifting Financial Landscapes." May I also take this opportunity to greet the guests and delegates form member-countries participating in the event.

We at the Department of Finance continue to support private sector initiatives and their various undertakings as part of our efforts to improve the Philippine Investment climate. FINEX continues to be an active partner of the government in the task of nation-building. I command its present roster of men and women for helping the country move forward.

We hope you will all carry on with your worthy endeavor. I am confident that this gathering of guests and delegates from IAFEI will help FINEX to further serve the common interests of its member-countries.

Congratulations and more power!

MARGARITO B. TEVES
Secretary, Department of Finance

Financial globalization has accelerated most dramatically since the 1990s. Today, worldwide foreign financial assets reach US$40 trillion, more than twice the level ten years ago and more than the total annual world output. Mature economies continue to hold the lion's share at US$38 trillion worth of assets while emerging markets account for only about US$3 trillion.

There are also new and increased risks. Recent economic headwinds are affecting the resiliency of the global financial market. World oil prices continue to be high and they could pose a new threat to economic performance and consumer price movements. In response to increase in price pressures, there has been a general shift to a tighter monetary policy in major central banks resulting in higher global interest rates. These macroeconomic developments may cause some volatility in the world financial landscape and disrupt capital flows. With persisting global imbalances, the endgame could be serious.

In many emerging countries, there has been greater competition in the financial markets. There are more players and more innovative products. At the same time, investors have become more discerning, requiring more information and better accounting and transparency practices from financial institutions and corporates.

Faced with these new challenges, central banks are gearing up their capital flows and vulnerability surveillance systems. This is complemented by efforts to upgrade regional financial assistance mechanisms. Moreover, policy coordination processes have been established and are continuously being sharpened to ensure the stability of the global financial system. It is heartening to note that the private sector through this World Congress is equally vigilant in assessing the risks associated with shifting financial landscapes. Coupled with risks posed by recent world economic developments, the finance industry will be coping with advancements in technology and accounting reforms such as the adoption of International Accounting Standards. I therefore wish to congratulate the organizers of this Congress for bringing together the experts from different countries and fields of endeavor to improve the capability of financial executives to meet these headwinds of change.

AMANDO M. TETANGCO, JR.
Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

I wish to congratulate the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) for their successful bid to host the International Association of Financial Executives Institute (IAFEI) World Congress on December 4-7, 2005.

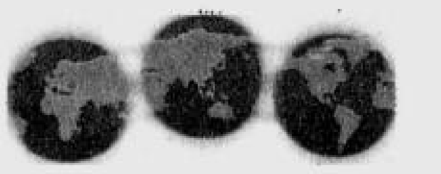
The present shifting financial landscapes indeed brings into focus the truth that the attainment of our aspiration for a robust economy cannot be done on our own. We can not flourish in isolation from global economic realities. If we are to lay our claim for a respectable niche in the international economic community, we must learn and learn good to make investments, create savings, efficiently utilize our limited resources and develop appropriate technologies. And these we can only do by strengthening our linkages with the rest of world economy and draw wisdom from the experiences of developed and developing countries.

It is therefore my fervent hope that the exchanges of ideas and sharing of experiences in this forum shall serve to further spur the present surge in our economy and thus stir a more encouraging ripple of positive change for the great many of our people to whom the gods of better life and good fortune have not smiled for too long.

On behalf of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), I welcome the speakers and participants of the International Association of Financial Executives Institutes World Congress. I wish you success in your efforts to make a common stand and forge appropriate measures by which the present shifts in the global financial landscape could be addressed and harnessed for the good of rich and poor countries alike.

Mabuhay!

BAYANI F. FERNANDO
Chairman, MMDA



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IAFEI
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTES

Congress Agenda

Day One Monday, December 5, 2005

The Emerging Landscape

8:00-9:00 Registration of Delegates

8:30 OPENING OF EXHIBITS

9:00 OPENING PLENARY SESSION
Entry of Banners
Invocation
National Anthem
Arsenio J. Vistro
Founding President, FINEX

Welcome Remarks
Melito S. Salazar Jr.
President, FINEX

Opening Remarks
Dr. Conchita L. Manabat
Chairperson, IAFEI

Overview of World Congress Activities
Edgardo L. Limon
Overall Chair, World Congress Committee
& Past President, FINEX

Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Omar T. Cruz
National Treasurer of the Philippines
& VP-Internal, FINEX

Keynote Speech
Honorable Margarito B. Teves
Secretary of Finance
Republic of the Philippines

10:15-10:30 Morning Break

10:30 Morning Plenary Emcee
Alfredo B. Parungao
Past President, FINEX

10:30-10:50 Overview of the World
Economy and Asia
The Asia Pacific Growth Center
William Bikales
Principal Economist
Southeast Asia Department
Asian Development Bank

10:50-11:20 China Rising
The Asian Superpower
Professor Xiao Zhuoji
Vice Chairman, Committee on Society
And Legal Systems
Chinese People's Political
Consultative Conference

Roundtable Moderator:
Rico Hizon
Business Anchor
British Broadcasting Corporation

11:20-12:20 Roundtable Discussion
on the Emerging Economies and the Global
Financial Executive
Coping with Globalization and Financial Reforms

Panelists:

David Morris
Fmr. SVP, JP Morgan Chase Bank
Past Chairman, IAFEI

Jose L. Cuisia Jr.
President, The Philippine American Life &
Gen. Insurance Co.

Peter Hsu
President, FINEX Chinese Taiwan
Past Chairman, IAFEI

Wu Songsheng
Chief Accounting Officer
China North Industries Group

12:20 Luncheon Plenary Emcee
Eduardo R. Alvarez
Past President, FINEX

12:20-2:00 Wireless Changes Everything
Effects of New Technologies in Telecommunications
Rajeev Suri
Senior Vice President, Asia Pacific
Nokia Networks

Technical Moderator:
Edwin V. Fernandez
Past President, FINEX

2:00-3:00 Track 1 a
Asia Pacific Perspective on Financial Markets
Regional & Global Integration of the Financial Markets
Governor Pridiyathorn Devakula
Bank of Thailand

Technical Moderator:
Franklin F. Ysaac
Past President, FINEX

2:00-3:00 Track 1 b
Technical Trends for the Global CFO
John Maclellan
General Manager, Finance & Administration
Asia-Pacific and Greater China Region
Microsoft Corporation

3:00-3:15 Afternoon Break

Technical Moderator:
Dennis D. Decena
Past President, FINEX

3:15-4:15 Track 2 a
A Successful IPO from India:
Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
Competing Against the World's Best
Nathan McMurtray
Vice President, Morgan Stanley

Technical Moderator:
Sonny B. Coloma Jr.
Member, FINEX

3:15-4:15 Track 2 b
Good Governance in Global Accounting
Accountability & Transparency
Greg Clark
Director
Asia Global Business Services
Proctor & Gamble Asia Pte. Ltd.

7:00-11:00 Cultural Night

Day Two Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Snapshots of the Future

9:00 Morning Plenary Emcee
Renato C. Valencia
Past President, FINEX

9:00 - 9:30 Future Trends in Global Business
and Economics
Doing Business in 2015 and Beyond
Dr. Ming-Wen Yu
Professor
Tamkang University of Taiwan

9:30 -10:00 The Economic, Social and Political
Challenges Facing Asia in the Future
Achieving Sustainable Development in Asia
Former President Fidel V. Ramos
Republic of the Philippines
Chairman, Boao Forum for Asia

10:00 -10:15 Morning Break

Roundtable Moderator:
Romeo L. Bernardo
Fmr. Finance Undersecretary, Philippines

10:15 -11:15 Roundtable Discussion on the
Evolving Global Financial Markets
Financial Market Facelifts

Panelists:

Timothy Condon
Chief Economist, ING Bank

Takeyuki Matsuda
Manager, Planning & Administration Dept.
Mizuho Corporate Bank Ltd.

William Hon
Managing Director of Corporate
Banking & Chief Country Officer
for Hong Kong
Chinatrust Commercial Bank

Anton U. Periquet
Head of Philippine Research &
Managing Director, Deutsche Bank

Roundtable Moderator:
Helmut Schnabel
Managing Director
Asecuris Asset Management
Vice Chair, IAFEI

11:15 -12:15 Roundtable Discussion on
Financial Best Practices
The Socio-Political Facets and Financial Best Practices

Panelists:

David L. Balangue
Incoming President, FINEX
Chairman & Managing Partner, SGV & Co.

Fei Zhongxin
Vice President, Guangsha Holding
Venture Capital Co. Ltd.

Gerard Emard
Fmr. Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

Isabel Meharry
President & CEO, FEI Canada

12:15 Luncheon Plenary Emcee
Victor Y. Lim Jr.
Past President, FINEX

12:15 -2:00 Scenario Planning : The Shell
Experience
Dr. Cho Khong
Chief Political Analyst PXG
Shell International Limited, London

Technical Moderator:
Josue A. Camba Jr.
Past President, FINEX

2:00 -3:00 Track 3 a
Attributes of a Global Financial Executive
GFE... Is This You?
Dean Roberto Mariano
Singapore Management University

Technical Moderator:
Edwin B. Villanueva
Past President, FINEX

2:00 - 3:00 Track 3 b
Managing Shareholders Expectations
Great Expectations, Great Shares!
Paul M. Y. Chow
Chief Executive, Executive Director
Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing Ltd.

3:00 - 3:15 Afternoon Break

Technical Moderator:
Ricardo G. Librea
Past President, FINEX

3:15 - 4:15 Track 4 a
New Developments in Executive Compensation
Are You Getting Enough?
Dr. Hans Kothuis
Director of Executive Compensation
for China & Hongkong
Watson Wyatt Data Services Asia Pacific

Technical Moderator:
Alberto S. Villarosa
Member, FINEX

3:15 - 4:15 Track 4 b
Company Expectations
The PLDT-Smart Story
Napoleon L. Nazareno
President, Philippine Long Distance
Telephone Company

7:00 - 11:00 Gala Night

Day Three Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Common and Continuing Values

8:00 Morning Plenary Emcee
Jesus M. Zulueta Jr.
Director, FINEX

8:00-9:00 Financial Reporting Standards:
Complete IAS Rollout in 2005
New Rules on Financial Statements & Reports
Warren McGregor
Board Member, International Accounting
Standards Board

9:00-9:30 A Case Study on Good Governance
BPI: Excelling in Turbulent Times
Aurelio Montinola III
President, Bank of the Philippine Islands

Roundtable Moderator:
Prof. Karl Heinz Midunsky
Executive Director, IAFEI

9:30-10:30 Common Values and
Good Governance
Western Governance vs Asian Pragmatism: The Great Debate

Panelists:

Johnip Cua
President, P & G Philippines

Washington SyCip
Founder, SGV Group

Atty. Francis Lim
President, Philippine Stock Exchange

Yang Bin
Chief Accounting Officer, Shaanzi Airport
Administration Group of China

10:30 CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

10:30-10:40 Presentation of GEFIU
(German Institute) Host for XXXVII
IAFEI World Congress in Berlin

10:40-11:00 Closing Remarks
Dr. Conchita L. Manabat
Chairperson, IAFEI

IAFEI Member Institutes

	Institute	President	Location
ARGENTINA	Instituto Argentino de Ejecutivos de Finanzas (IAEF)	Dr. Roberto O. Philipps	Buenos Aires
AUSTRIA	Forum Finanzen - ÖPWZ	Dr. Franz Hofbauer	Vienna
BELGIUM	Financial Executives Institute of Belgium (FEIB)	Mr. Patrick d'Hose	Brussels
BOLIVIA	Instituto Boliviano de Ejecutivos de Finanzas (IBOEF)	Mr. Francisco Pinto	Santa Cruz
BRAZIL	Instituto Brasileiro de Executivos de Finanças (IBEF)	Mr. Ofacilio Azenedo Pedrinha	Sao Paolo
CANADA	Financial Executives International (FEI)	Ms. Isabel Meharry	Ontario
CHINA	China Association of Chief Financial Officers (CACFO)	Mr. Zhang Youcai	Beijing
CHINESE TAIWAN	Financial Executives Institute of Taiwan (FEI Chinese Taiwan)	Mr. Peter Hsu	Taipei
ECUADOR	Instituto Ecuatoriano de Ejecutivos de Finanzas (IECEF)	Mr. César Galarza Garcés	Quito
FRANCE	Association Nationale des Directeurs Financiers et de Contrôle de Gestion (DFCG)	Mr. Francois Meunier	Paris
GERMANY	Gesellschaft für Finanzwirtschaft in der Unternehmensführung e.V. (GEFIU)	Mr. Helmut Schnabel	Friedrichsdorf
INDONESIA	Indonesia Financial Executive Association (IFEA)	Mr. Saiful Haq Manan	Jakarta
ITALY	Associazione Nazionale Direttori Amministrativi e Finanziari (ANDAF)	Mr. Paolo Bertoli	Milan
JAPAN	Japan Association for Chief Financial Officers (JACFO)	Mr. Toyoo Gyohten	Tokyo
NETHERLANDS	Controllers Instituut - CI		
PHILIPPINES	Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX)	Mr. Melito S. Salazar Jr.	Manila
POLAND	Polish Institute of Financial Executives (PIFE)	Mr. Michal Zdziarski	Warsaw
SWITZERLAND	Vereinigung Schweizerischer Finanzfachleute (VSF)	Dr. Raymund Breu	Jona
USA	Financial Executives International (FEI)	Ms. Colleen Cunningham	New Jersey
VENEZUELA	Instituto Venezolano de Ejecutivos de Finanzas (IVEF)		

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IAFEI World Congress Venues (1969-2005)

I	Marbella, Spain	1969
II	Brussels, Belgium	1970
III	Mexico DF, Mexico	1971
IV	Frankfurt am Main, Germany	1972
V	Paris, France	1973
VI	Manila, Philippines	1974
VII	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	1976
VIII	Dublin, Ireland	1977
IX	Buenos Aires, Argentina	1978
X	Atlanta GA, USA	1979
XI	Sydney, Australia	1980
XII	Mexico DF, Mexico	1981
XIII	Madrid, Spain	1982
XIV	Jakarta, Indonesia	1983
XV	Venice, Italy	1984
XVI	Buenos Aires, Argentina	1985
XVII	Hong Kong	1986
XVIII	Caracas, Venezuela	1987
XIX	Manila, Philippines	1988
XX	Paris, France	1989
XXI	Taipei, Taiwan	1990
XXII	Cancun, Mexico	1991
XXIII	Madrid, Spain	1992
XXIV	San Carlos, Argentina	1993
XXV	Washington DC, USA	1994
XXVI	Rome, Italy	1995
XXVII	Jakarta/Bali, Indonesia	1996
XXVIII	Interlaken, Switzerland	1997
XXIX	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	1998
XXX	Vancouver BC, Canada	1999
XXXI	Sydney, Australia	2000
XXXII	Cancun, Mexico	2001
XXXIII	Madrid, Spain	2002
XXXIV	Orlando FL, USA	2003
XXXV	Florence, Italy	2004
XXXVI	Makati MM, Philippines	2005

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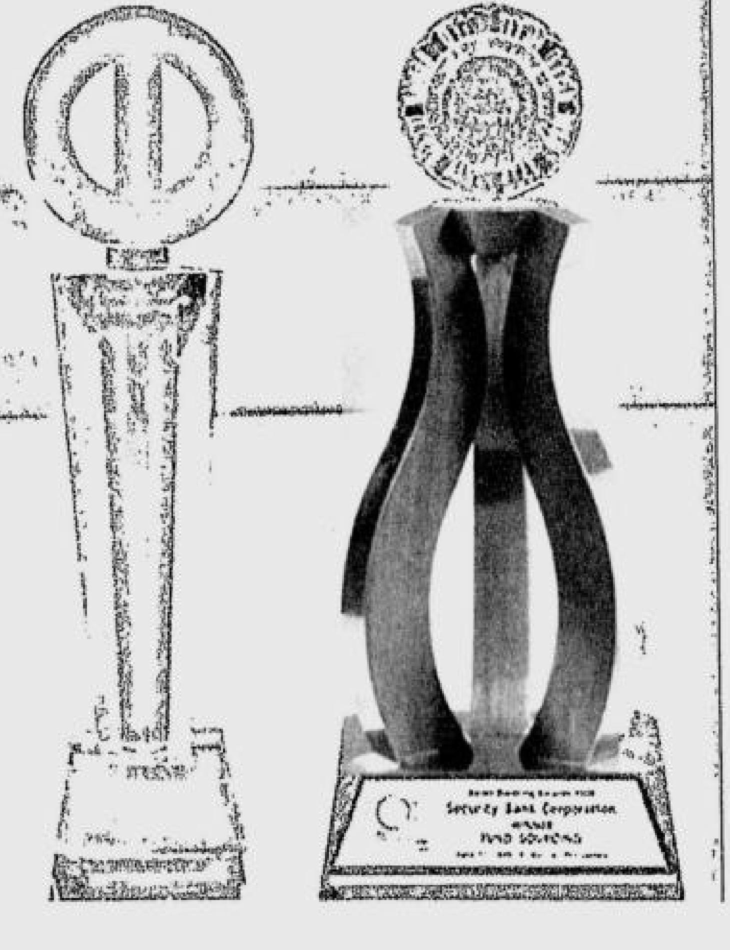
BEST FOR FX SALES	Security Bank	2
BEST DOMESTIC PROVIDER OF FX SALES	Security Bank	4

Asiamoney, The FX Polls
September 2005, Volume XVI, Issue 8



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Asiamoney, Annual Structured Products Poll August 2005, Volume XVI, Issue 7
Asian Banking Awards 2005 "Most Outstanding Product"
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Fund Sourcing category, besting 118 entries from 48 banks in 16 countries
Best Franchise Award – SB Cards Corporation
for Diners Card Philippines
Security Bank's credit card subsidiary won over peer franchises
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2005 World Congress of Financial Executives

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Storms are not forever

This year, FINEX is hosting the XXXVI IAFEI World Congress in Manila. The theme is 'Global Markets: Thriving in Shifting Financial Landscapes.' This is the third time that IAFEI has entrusted the task of organizing its World Congress to FINEX, which hosted the 1974 and 1988 editions of the summit

By J. Albert Gamboa
Editor-in-Chief
World Financial Executive's Digest

When members of the International Association of Financial Executives Institutes (IAFEI) gathered in Florence last year, the theme of the XXXV IAFEI World Congress was "Business Renaissance: Storms Are Not Forever." The Italian organizers of this annual CFO summit emphasized that a long-awaited economic turnaround was at hand. They expected this global recovery to "mark the exit from a long string of events that have put our economies to the test all at the same time: scandalous corporate and economic collapses; terrorism and the response to it; declining consumer trust; climbing oil prices and rising cost of living; economies forced to fight each other and against emerging unregulated competitors; the Euro introduction and the coming European Union enlargement."

Incidentally, when the US hosted the XXXV IAFEI World Congress in Orlando, Florida in 2003, "Financial Leadership in Turbulent Times" was the summit theme in the context of Enron, Arthur Andersen, WorldCom, and other scandals that rocked the financial world at that time.

Florence was selected for the 2004 edition because it is the cradle of the Renaissance, and the organizers wanted to dedicate the conference to the much- anticipated business renaissance of the world economy. It also called attention to the industries and business sectors that Italy is best associated with: fine mechanics and electronics, fashion, brand stretching/revamping, good food and art treasures.

As part of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) delegation to the Florence summit, we attended plenary and technical sessions featuring some very interesting topics and speakers. Nobel Prize for Economics winner Robert Mundell of Columbia University gave his outlook on world currencies and their interrelationships. Toyoo Gyohten of the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi led a discussion on whether the Western vision for the world will lead to convergence or divergence. Oracle Corp. Chairman Jeff Henley called for a comprehensive vision on corporate governance in support of innovation. CEOs Giacomo Santucci of Gucci Italy, Paolo Pininfarina of Pininfarina Extra, and Sergio Marchionne of the Fiat Group spoke on the power of imagination at work in the fashion, automotive design and car manufacturing industries, respectively.

Brazilian economist Norman Carvalho of Sao Paolo University moderated a roundtable discussion on investor relations and how to align organizations in creating shareholder value. A forum on financial markets was facilitated by experts from the stock exchanges of Milan, Brussels, Paris and Frankfurt who debated on the prospects of a unified European bourse. Michael Zaoui, Managing Director of Morgan Stanley UK, talked on the art of mastering storms and how external forces influence mergers & acquisitions activity and valuation. Antonio Paolucci, an official from the Italian Ministry of Cultural Estates, tackled art treasures management. There was a session on the difficult art of balancing business and personal life, and the speaker was the distinguished sociologist Sergio Bernal SJ, Dean of Social Sciences at the Vatican City's Gregorian Pontifical University.

This year, FINEX is hosting the XXXVI IAFEI World Congress in Manila. The theme is "Global Markets: Thriving in Shifting Financial Landscapes." This is the third time that IAFEI has entrusted the task of organizing its World Congress to FINEX, which hosted the 1974 and 1988 editions of the summit. The 2005 World Congress Organizing Committee is headed by FINEX Past President Edgardo L. Limon and incumbent FINEX President Melito S. Salazar Jr. as overall chair and co-chair, respectively. A wide range of speakers and roundtable panelists from Asia-Pacific, Europe and the Americas will grace the global event from December 4-7 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Recently the Philippines was removed from the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force's watch list of "uncooperative" countries in the drive against money laundering. The Philippine peso has been appreciating vis-à-vis the once-almighty US dollar, and happy days are here again for the stock market. As for the fiscal and political crises, these too shall pass, just like SARS, bird flu and the Indian Ocean tsunami. Indeed, storms are not forever.

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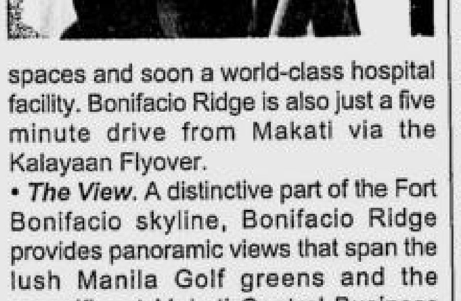

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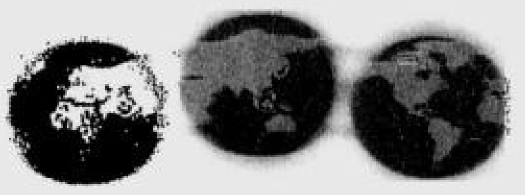
2005 World Congress of Financial Executives

December 4-7, 2005 / Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Ayala Center, Makati City, Philippines



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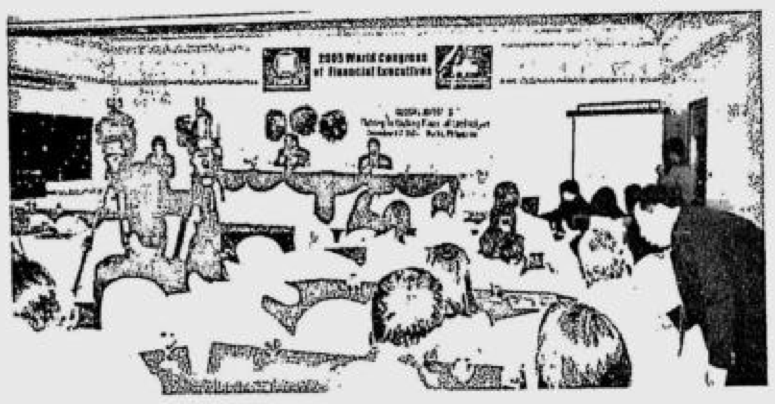
RP hosts world meeting of financial executives

By Daxim L. Lucas

Financial executives from around the world meet in the Philippines to address threats and opportunities facing the global financial industry.

In a press briefing (recently), Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) president Melito S. Salazar Jr. said up to 500 delegates representing companies from Asia-Pacific, Europe, North and South America will converge in Manila on Dec. 4 to 7 for the 2005 World Congress of Financial Executives.

"What we will do is to try to get our members to exchange ideas in developing the financial system," he said.



According to World Congress chair Edgardo L. Limon, the meeting's theme is "timely, as the world is undergoing a lot of changes."

"Unexpected events like terrorism, natural calamities, and even the surge in oil prices have vastly altered financial environments," he said. "It would be useful for all these people involved with finance to refresh their views on what is going on in the world."

Speakers for the congress were selected in coordination with the International Association of Financial Executives Institutes (IAFEI) which maintains a roster of financial experts with distinguished careers and track records in government and business.

GLOBAL MARKETS
Thriving in Shifting Financial Lanc
De 4-7, 2005 , Philipp

Shown are (from left) FINEX President Melito S. Salazar Jr., IAFEI Chairperson Dr. Conchita L. Manabat, World Congress Overall Chair Edgardo L. Limon and FINEX Director Esther P. Magleo

The highlight of the event will be a talk by former President Fidel Ramos who will discuss the economic, social and political challenges facing Asia in the future, and achieving sustainable development in the region.

Ramos is the current chair of the Boao Forum for Asia - a Beijing-based talk show for public and private sector cooperation for the region.

The Governor of the Bank of Thailand, Pridiyathorn Devakula, will give a perspective of regional financial markets and will also discuss prospects of regional financial and economic integration.

Reprinted from the Oct. 28, 2005 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Business Section

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2005 World Congress of Financial Executives

Messages

Greetings from the Financial Capital of the Philippines!

It is my honor and pleasure to welcome the delegates to the 2005 World Congress of Financial Executives who are representing the member-institutes of the International Association of Financial Executives (IAFEI) from 23 countries.

I would like to congratulate the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) for having earned the privilege of hosting this event that holds global import. With this latest feat, FINEX has not only done our country proud, but has also affirmed our rightful place among world-class destinations for both business and leisure.

Likewise, the Congress organizers must be commended for having drawn up a comprehensive array of topics for the Congress proper, and for matching it with an impressive line-up of expert resource speakers and moderators. We can, therefore, be assured that all the participants will find each session informative, insightful, and worthwhile.

The Congress theme, "Global Markets - Thriving in Shifting Financial Landscapes", underscores the growing need for dynamism and resiliency in a nation's economy, so that it can cope with the challenges of globalization and reap its optimum benefits.

As you, foreign and local delegates, converge to tackle crucial economic, social and political issues, as well as identify emerging global trends and their immediate and long-term impacts on the development of your respective nations, may there be an uninhibited and meaningful exchange of learned views and relevant experiences among you.

May this event serve to renew your commitment to your role, as financial executives, in nation-building. May each one of you emerge from this event with greater knowledge and broader perspectives on the major aspects of your profession, fully reinvigorated and primed to take on the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Congratulations and Godspeed. Mabuhay kayong lahat!

JEJOMAR C. BINAY
Mayor, City of Makati

It gives me enormous pleasure to welcome you to the XXXVI International Association of Financial Executives Institutes (IAFEI) World Congress, 'Global Markets: Thriving in Shifting Landscapes, in Manila, Philippines.

The global financial marketplace has experienced unprecedented competition, connectivity and complexity in the past few years. The increasing sophistication of financial operations and the finance function's escalating role in business strategy and corporate success have rapidly transformed the demands on and expectations of the finance executive.

To stay ahead in the competitive, shifting landscape, finance executives need a combination of updated financial, strategic and organizational skills, strong business networks and a clear big picture world view. While the Information age has resulted in unprecedented access to real-time global information, it has also unfortunately led to our being inundated with unfiltered information, with questionable authenticity, reliability and validity. Given this backdrop, we as finance executives must comprehend global, regional and local trends, interface with peers across the world and anticipate complex global changes in order to thrive in shifting landscapes.

IAFEI's 2005 World Congress in Manila will enable finance executives to meet these diverse needs of learning, networking and adapting by their participation in the numerous events and exchanging views with an array of international business and finance leaders. With all of these goes the fun and camaraderie. This is a great opportunity to be part of a World Congress that is uniquely of Asian flavor at a time that is heralded as the Asian century.

Cmanabat
DR. CONCHITA L. MANABAT
Chairperson, IAFEI

On behalf of the FINEX Philippines Organizing Committee, I am pleased to welcome the 700+ delegates to the XXXVI IAFEI World Congress in Manila.

This is the culmination of three years' preparations starting in 2003, when it was announced during the XXXIV IAFEI World Congress in Orlando, Florida that FINEX Philippines had been chosen as the 2005 host. Last year, FINEX sent a big Philippine delegation to the XXXV World Congress in Florence, Italy. The two previous World Congresses held in Manila, in 1974 and 1988, prepared us well in organizing a conference of this magnitude.

We have invited global leaders in business and finance as speakers for the plenary and technical sessions or panelists in the roundtable discussions, in line with this year's theme "Global Markets: Thriving in Shifting Financial Landscapes." The sessions are clustered into sub-themes unique to each of the Congress days: "The Emerging Landscape" on Day 1, "Snapshots of the Future Landscape" on Day 2, and "Common and Continuing Values" on Day 3.

We have also lined up special events highlighting the longest, most festive Christmas season in the world. The Cultural Night and the World Gala Ball will feature internationally-renowned Filipino performing artists. While delegates are busy attending the sessions, their spouses and companions will be given a tour of the Spanish-era Intramuros Walled City, a guided shopping expedition to Metro Manila's megamalls, and a day trip to the southern resort of Villa Escudero. Post-Congress activities include the IAFEI Golf Tournament at the world-class Santa Elena Golf & Country Club, and a "Weekend in Paradise" at one of the world's best beaches, Boracay.

I wish to thank our Partners and Sponsors for supporting us in hosting this momentous event, as well as my colleagues in the Organizing Committee who have worked so hard to make this annual summit a memorable success.

Mabuhay and welcome to the IAFEI Fiesta in Manila!

EDGARDO L. LIMON
Overall Chair, World Congress Organizing Committee

In behalf of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, I welcome all the participants to the 2005 World Congress of Financial Executives with the theme "GLOBAL MARKETS, Thriving in Shifting Financial Landscapes."

This gathering is most opportune given the global developments after the Asian Financial Crisis of the mid-90's and the lessons of the ENRON episode, which led to heightened concerns about transparency, good governance and institutionalization of best practices. It is time to exchange experiences, review progress made and chart future directions.

That this Congress is taking place in the Philippines is most timely especially with the national efforts to institute fundamental reforms in all aspects of Philippine society. FINEX has taken the lead in championing reforms in the financial sector and in calling on the national leadership to strengthen the core values of honesty and accountability.

It is our hope that this Congress will renew our steadfast commitment to create a community and a world based on an efficient and effective functioning of the market and enhancing the good that is in every man.

MELITO S. SALAZAR, JR.
2005 President, FINEX

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2005 World Congress of Financial Executives

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XIAO ZHUOJI
Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

RAJEEV SURI
Nokia Networks

MING-WEN HU
Tamkang University of Taiwan

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International Accounting Standards Board

AURELIO MONTINOLA III
Bank of the Philippine Islands

Technical Track Speakers

PRIDIYATHORN DEVAKULA
Bank of Thailand

JOHN MACLELLAN
Microsoft Corp.

ROBERTO MARIANO
Singapore Management University

PAUL M. Y. CHOW
Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing Ltd.

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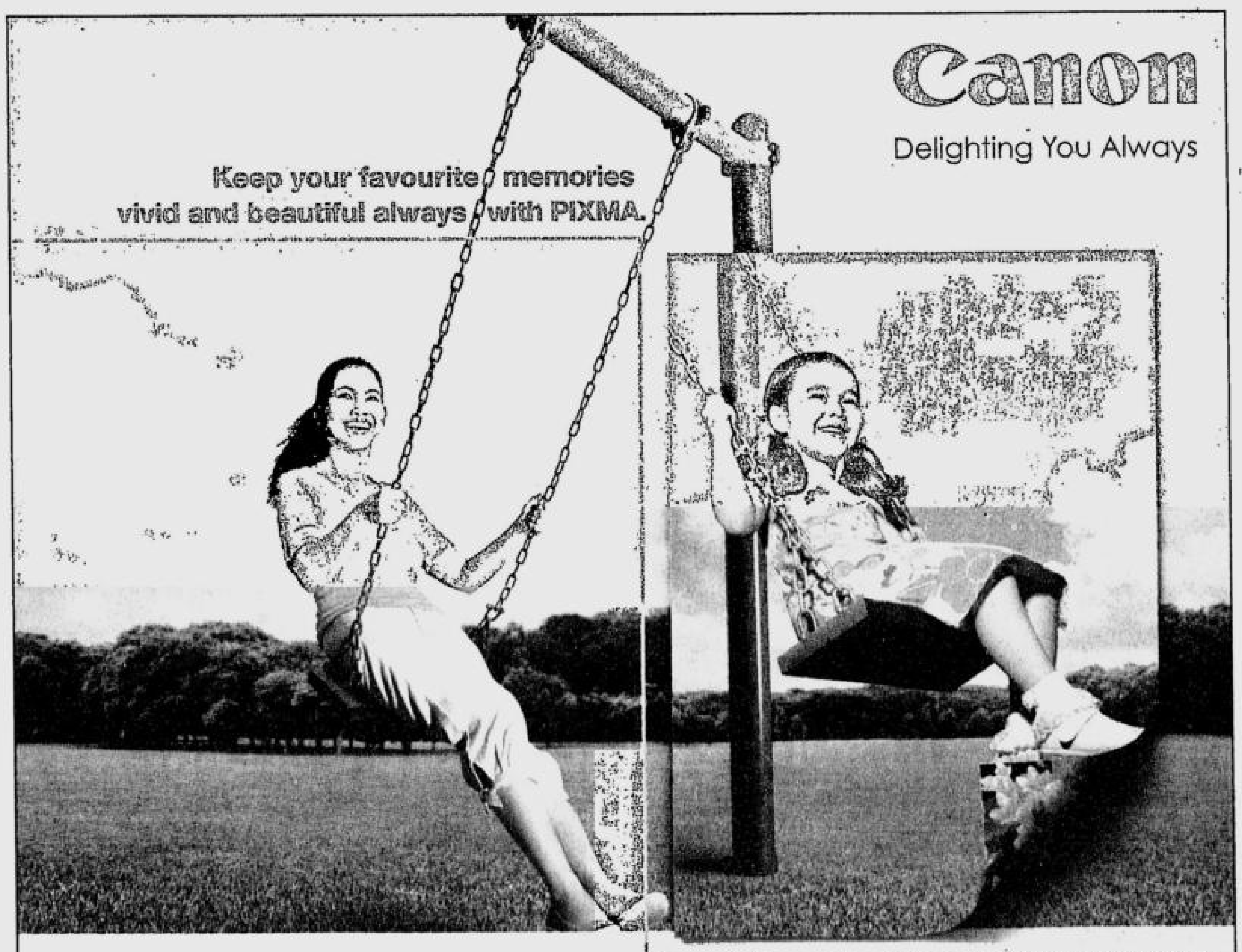
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• Advanced Media Handling

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• 25/17 ppm (mono/color)
• Advanced Media Handling

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JP Morgan Chase Bank

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Philamlife

PETER HSU
FEI Chinese Taiwan

WU SONGSHENG
China North Industries Group

TIMOTHY CONDON
ING Bank

TAKEYUKI MATSUDA
Mizuho Corporate Bank Ltd.

WILLIAM HON
Chinatrust Commercial Bank

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Deutsche Bank

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SGV & Co.

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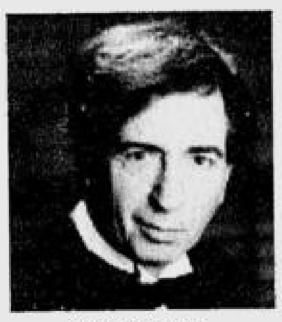
Venture Capital Co. Ltd.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Deloitte

ISABEL MEHARRY
FEI Canada

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Procter & Gamble Phils.

WASHINGTON SYCIP
SGV Group

FRANCIS LIM
Philippine Stock Exchange

YANG BIN
Shaanxi Airport Admin.

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British Broadcasting Corp.

ROMEO BERNARDO
Lazaro Bernardo Tiu & Associates

HELMUT SCHNABEL
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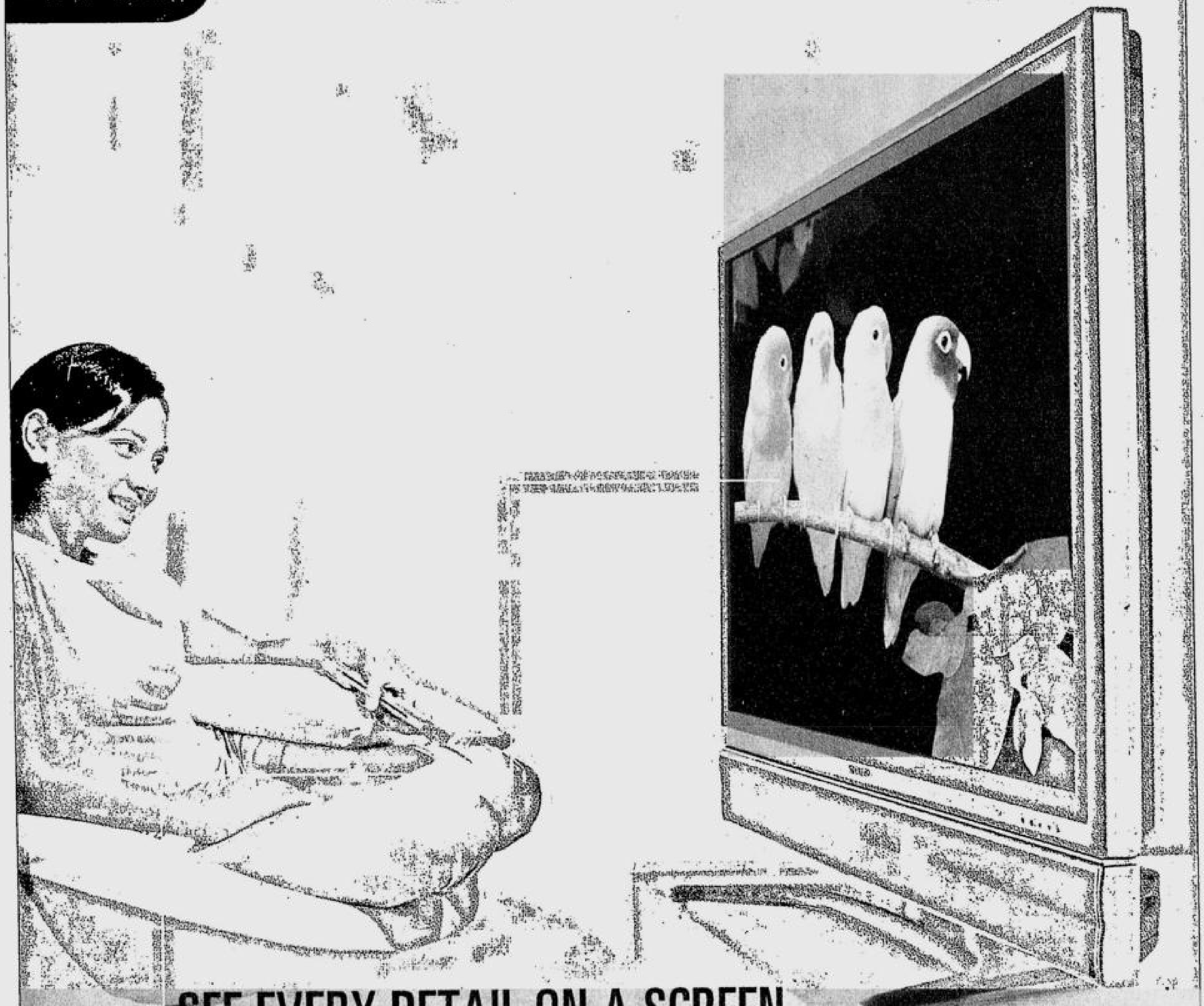

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Research reveals Sharp produces most of the world's LCD TVs

For two consecutive years now, Sharp has again topped the list of producers of LCD TVs in the world. DisplaySearch, a leading market research and consulting firm for the flat panel display (FPD) industry, announced the result of its recent study that shows Sharp leading all LCD TV manufacturers consistently from year 2004 until the first half of 2005.

A total of 40 LCD TV manufacturers from around the world were included in DisplaySearch's study for the worldwide shipment of LCD TV brands. The study shows a steady increase of unit shipment since last year, with the Sharp brand consistently leading all shippers. By the first half of this year, Sharp has recorded a market share of 19.43%.

Last year, Sharp also recorded more than 5 million units of its AQUOS LCD TV spread over its manufacturing bases and subsidiaries in Japan, Spain, Mexico, and China. This accounted for one-third of the world's flat-panel TVs out of the total worldwide demand of 14 million units from the year 2001 to 2004.

Sharp's leading LCD TV model in the Philippines is the AQUOS line, which began initial manufacturing in January 2001 in Japan. This specific model is capable of projecting high quality images for home entertainment because of its excellent resolution. It has received high ratings for its thinner profile, lighter weight, and smaller footprint. Sharp's AQUOS line has also gathered good reviews for its super energy efficiency, long service life, and excellent performance compared to CRT-based TVs.

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